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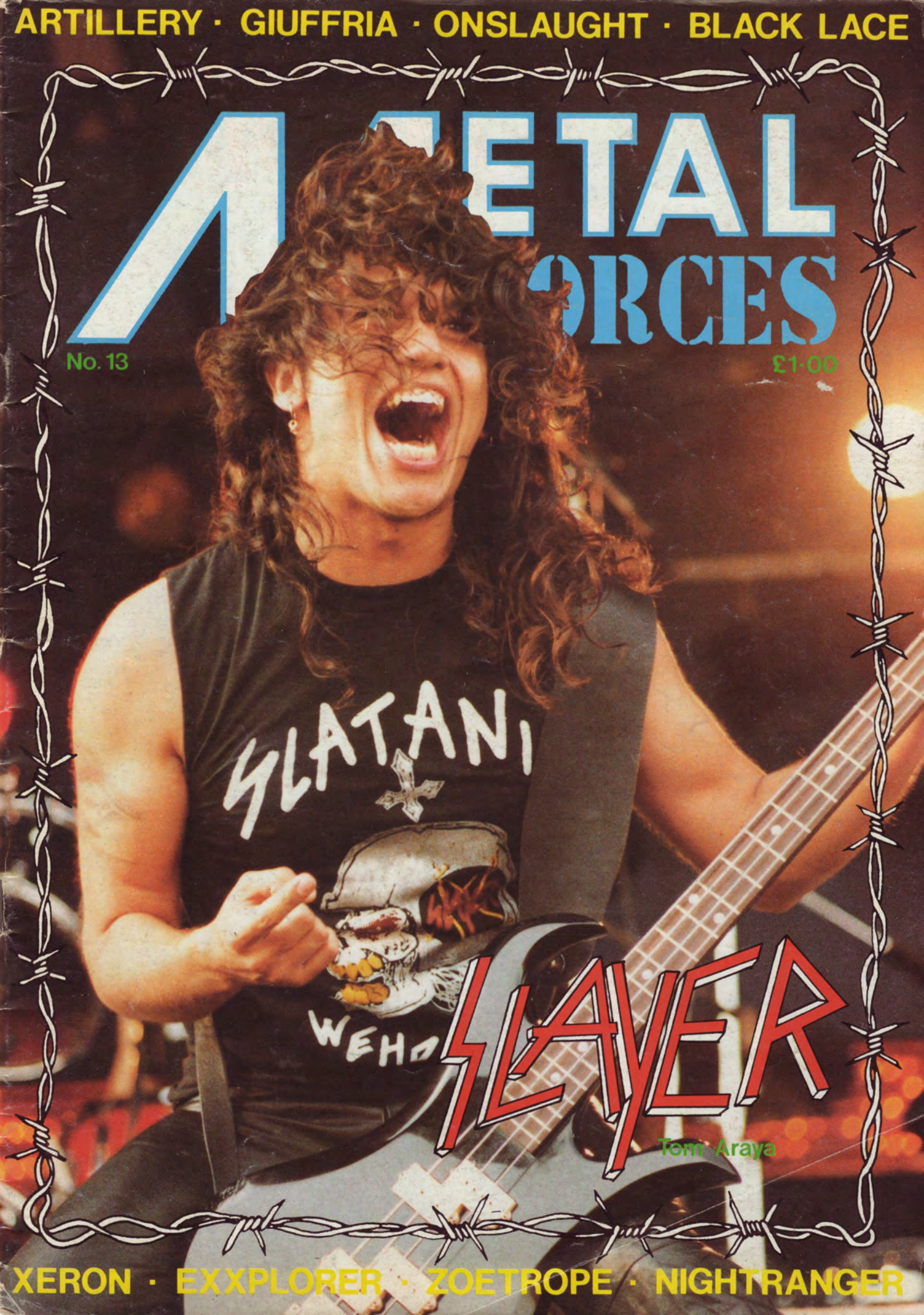

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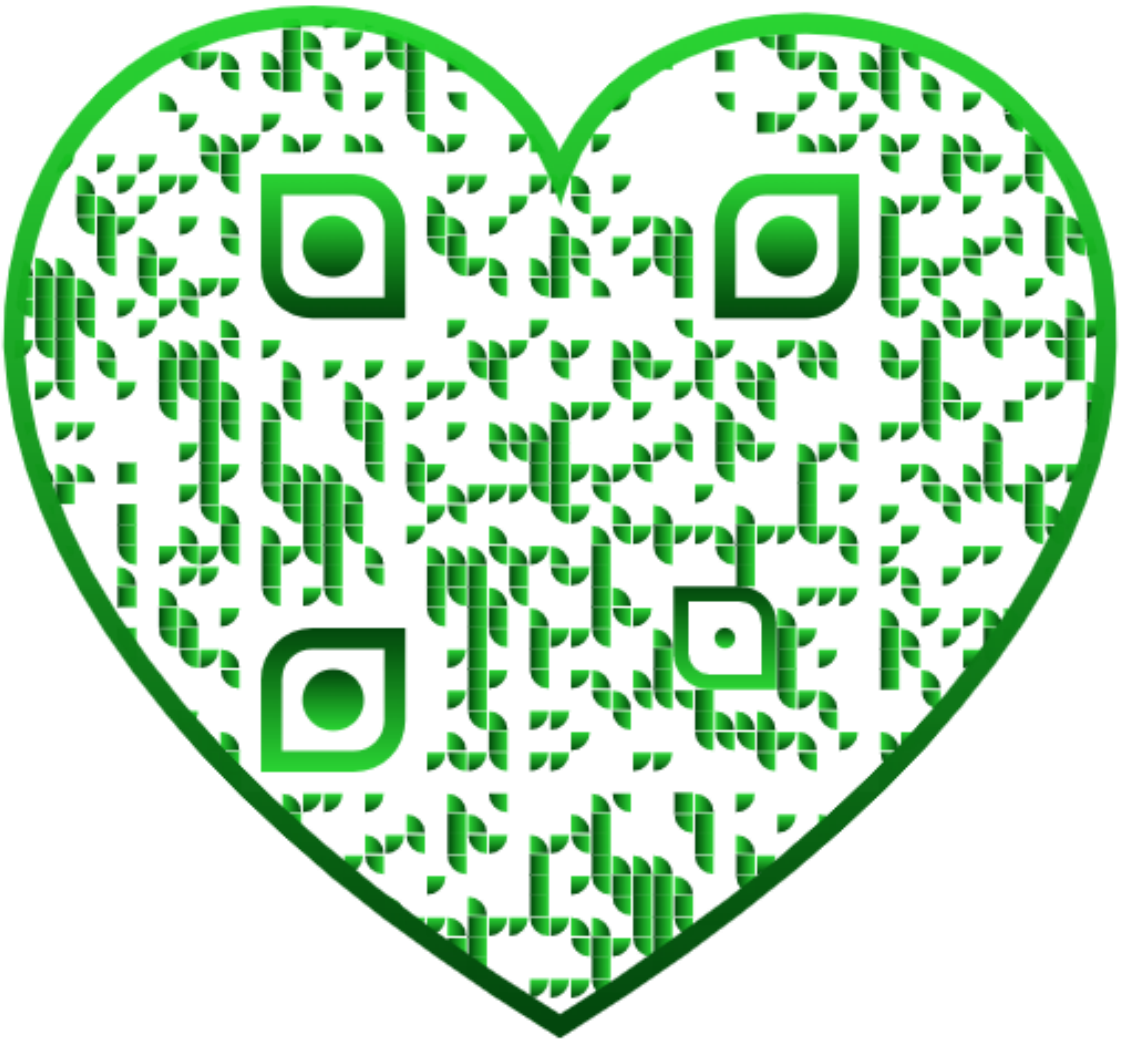

STEEL SYMPHONIC AFTER ALL THESE YEARS

EXXPLORER

As I stated in the review of EXXPLORER's debut album in issue no. 8, I personally found 1984 boring in the release of new metal. 1985 hasn't been a real hoot either with the exception of WARRIOR's debut LP and the BLITZKRIEG "Anthology" album and that can't even be considered "new" metal. But, somewhere in '84 and '85 falls the brilliant release of EXXPLORER's debut LP, "Symphonies Of Steel".

The album was originally released on the bands own HHH label and later placed on the fast growing Black Dragon Records in France. It is albums like this that give you hope for the continuation and growth of metal in the future.

Hell, even Mr. "Deathmaser" Doe placed the album n his Top 20 of '84. Sounds ike it has something for eryone, I say.

Even tho their current ntract with Black Dragon for European release, the Jersey based band is remely happy with the way ck Dragon has been spread- the word of the band ughout the metal under- nd. Says guitarist Ed La Volpe, "The things that Black Dragon has been doing for us has been the things that we really needed. We had a photo session done and now all sorts of magazines have been getting in touch with us. They have taken out full page colour ad's for our album and they re-did and corrected the artwork on our original packaging of the album. They're really into us and they believe in us."

If you have the original HHH release of "Symphonies" you'll notice that the band's name was originally spelt EXPLORER with only one 'X'. The change came about this spring. It seems that there were two EXPLORER's floating about the UK with much more promotion than the boys from New Jersey were getting. Black Dragon Records requested that something be done and they liked the bands idea of adding the second 'X' to the name. They've now "covered their ass" legally and at the same time did not confuse their loyal following they had already built.

EXXPLORER is now currently at work on their second LP, going under the working title of "Beg, Borrow Or Steel". The band consisting of Lennie Rizzo on vocals, Mike Moyer on drums, Jimmie G on bass and Kevin Kennedy and Ed La Volpe on twin lead guitars have already written two classics that will appear on the next LP that I feel surpasses anything on "S.O.S.". The original cut "Flying Dutchman" takes the original EXXPLORER sound another step further. They even do a cover of the old THREE DOG NIGHT song "One". Before you cringe at the thought, the riffing in the song is as heavy as anything MANOWAR has done on their last LP.

As was the case with "S.O.S.", the band's sixth member, manager Kurt Breeze will produce the upcoming album. And believe me, the new material is original. According to Ed, "We just don't go out and write a song for a purpose. We might start out with some ideas, but it never ends up the way it was started. The basic rule when we write is, anything goes!"

MIKE VERGANE

Pic KEVIN HODAPP

SOME LIKE IT HOT

DAVE REYNOLDS Still Has A Fetish For BLACK LACE

"Is this another hype?" I hear your little guts scream out over yet another BLACKLACE story penned by yours truly. Well I am in a difficult situation every writer has to come to terms with. That is to wax lyrical and poetic over a band that are not only a very good, nay, excellent bunch of talented individuals, but also personal friends too. Bernard Doe is in the same situation with PRETTY MAIDS and so too is Paul Suter over at "Kerrang!" with LEE AARON. But as Bernard pointed out in his MAIDS feature in issue 11, what band hasn't had a little help from their friends?

The D.R./BLACKLACE relationship can be traced back to when I went truly apeshit over the "On The Attack" demo that winged its gift-wrapped metal wings across the Atlantic, which I reviewed in MF2. The start of a musical love affair with a New York band of such promise. Since then BLACKLACE have put out two top quality albums on Mausoleum and have debuted live on UK turf with a few club dates during the

recording of the wonderfully new "Get It While It's Hot" album in March of this year. Fun times in the country of Thatcherism were had by all, and I for one will remember Maryann's attempts at procuring a Duck for dinner for all eternity!

So, "Some Like It Hot" is the title of this here article. Powerstation these people ain't. Powerhouse these people are. Despite rather bad press in the UK BLACKLACE are one of the few bands I've had fun during one of their gigs. (If you're wondering METALLICA, (early) DIAMOND HEAD and WRATHCHILD are the others). A headbanging time was had by all, with a few exceptions (Hi Mr No 1!). Shit, even Constable was thrashing down the front at BLACKLACE's Royal Standard gig. True, I suspect that Maryann still isn't 100% comfortable, in charge of a crowd of adoring, thrashing metal maniacs but she's getting there. But more about press criticism and live shows in a moment. The emphasis must be turned to that current release. I know the band are very happy with the way it's turned out but the presentation could've been better. Let's face it, the cover sucks big ones. I'm disappointed with it.

"Yeah, I am too" agrees Maryann "I would've liked to have overseen the artwork, but between doing the LP and the live shows I really couldn't do it. We didn't see it until it was finished. We gave Mausoleum the general idea as to how we wanted it but it turned out to be a lot different to our initial idea. If I was able to have done it myself I would've done it."

But bassist Anthony Fragnito kinda disagrees "I quite like the cover". Maryann continues "Anyway it's really the inside that counts, the actual record, so it's no big deal."

Listening to the album it seems that Anthony has taken a little bit more command, doing a great deal more singing than on "Unlaced", the bands 1984 debut album. Anthony man, don't you think you doing lead vocals when the band already has a lead vocalist is a bit out of order? "Well I never wanna take anything away from Maryann" states the live-wire bass-player. "A lot of things weren't exactly planned beforeheand, they just turned out that way. The title track for instance wasn't planned to have me singing the first verse but we though it was a good idea for me to sing and have the two people interacting. We also worked on harmonies a great deal and I think they're much more identifiable now."

Maryann: "As you know our live show is like that. Anthony is also a main focal point. For the album he came up with "The Jig Is Up" which originally I was going to sing but the whole band agreed that it would sound better if he sang it."

Anthony: "It's not something we're going to keep doing but we may do it again in the future."

Maryann: "We're not following a certain formula in how we write or perform."

I noticed that the mainriff to "The Jig Is Up" was very similar to ALDO NOVA's best known cut "Fantasy". I think Anthony's noticed it too. "It's something that accidentaly happened. I'm by no means a fan of that particular man, he's not somebody I listen to."

"I think we have a great deal more to offer as a band, much much more. Some bands spend so many years together, do an excellent first album then take months to do a second and it doesn't turn out so good. All the songs on the first album we'd had around for ages and it didn't take us very long to do our debut. The second album took a bit longer to write and record. All the songs are brand new except "I Like To Rock"."

"I Like To Rock" was one of the songs on that infamous "On The Attack" demo and to many ardent BLACKLACE fanatics like me, it's probably their best number and a sure-fire crowd pleaser. Crowd pleasing is one thing, music critic pleasing is another. Live reports in the UK press were far from favourable, including one from MF's contributor David Ling in Kerrang! Where he claimed the band had TWO guitarists! Maryann retorts "Tell him that if he can name the fifth member of BLACKLACE correctly then I will do the entire set for him and his friends in the nude OK?!" I dare you Dave! On the subject of press reports Maryann has this to say "They can't deny our musical ability, they go for other things. They're all very disappointed because I probably didn't show enough skin" Well there is that, I agree.....

Seriously though, BLACKLACE are well aware that the standard of performances were a little below the level at which they play to audiences in the United States. Seeing the band at The Royal Standard in London, Maryann looked visibly tired and also had the problem of a very, very poor vocal mix at the soundboard, but it didn't deter her even though I'm sure she knew we couldn't hear her at all during the opening numbers. On the subject of that, and other UK performances Anthony is the main spokesman.

"Anytime you would see the band in our own enviroment we'd kick ass. The UK tour wasn't set up properly, it was a very rushed job. We had a different PA every night with a soundman who didn't know us or what we wanted but it was something we all wanted to do so don't think I'm trying to make excuses. What I can say is that when we do come back, and we will, we'll be both mentally and physically prepared for a tour and not also have the pressure of recording an album."

Maryann: "The show you saw was probably the best we did even though it was such a small place. The kids seemed to enjoy it and we got a total of three encores, and would've done a fourth if we'd had another song ready, so I don't think we did badly do you? Most music critics like to cut people down, they should see the kids having a good time instead of standing at the back getting drunk at the bar."

Anthony: "No matter what anybody said about our shows I'm glad we played in England."

You were lined-up to do the Channel Four TV programme ECT, then Mausoleum decided it wouldn't be worth it just to bring you over for that. What's the current situation with Mausoleum? Anthony surprisingly doesn't give a hesitent answer like most would. "I'm not sure what sort of situation they're in financially. It might have been good to have appeared on ECT but I can see their point, it would've

been better if some dates had been set-up to coincide with the show. But all we can do is forget about it. We're just happy at what they've done for us already. It's tough enough for any band to make it this far like we have and we're very happy to have been able to put two albums out in such a short space of time."

Your albums are oddly only available on import in the US. What's the reaction been to "Get It While It's Hot" so far? Anthony: "We've been getting great response to the new stuff and so far as New York goes it's doing well for the few weeks it's been out."

Are you supporting the record's release with any live action? "Yeah, right now we're playing pretty consistently. We're presently promoting the album in our area. We're also talking to a few labels and agencies but as far as Europe is concerned, unless something big happens we won't be going back to Europe for a long time, not this year anyway. We are getting major labels interested and we'll be touring down in Texas sometime soon and also plan to hit the West Coast too."

Let's hope then that something BIG will come along and that we get another chance to taste BLACKLACE in serious live action in Europe. I'll be praying with Anthony, Maryann, Carlo Fragnito (guitars) and Steve Werner (drums) I can tell you. If anybody deserves success for all the effort and determination then it's these people.

Maryann: "If it's one thing we're lacking it's that we don't have any major bucks behind us which would give us better conditions to work from. I can tell you that this band is very hungry for success and with more road experience we believe we can make it big with a major label."

But what about all this industry talk that heavy metal is dying? Anthony: "The way I see it, heavy metal is not dying. What happened was that all the big bands like RATT, TWISTED SISTER and MOTLEY CRUE all had albums that charted highly at the same time. When sales died off there wasn't any other bands with albums out that could take over from them. This led to the major labels thinking that HM was dying. Now these bands have, or will have, albums out you'll see metal will start climbing again. The success of metal is limited only to the big bands in terms of chart hits but there will always be a metal underground, right now almost every band is coming out with an album or EP and that's kind of stifling the scene (which is what happened with the NWOBHM remember?). We're hoping our music is good enough for both the commercial market and the metal underground too."

With an ever increasing interest in the band I believe that BLACKLACE's hopes in this respect will blossom into fruition. Already the big boys are taking notice of the Bronx quartet and I foresee that it will be only a matter of months before these highly entertaining New Yorkers, my friends, will be announcing a major label deal in these pages. Watch the news pages and, as Maryann is quick to point out if you haven't got hold of a copy of the second album then you should, quite rightly, "Get It While It's Hot" before the money burns a hole in your leather pockets.

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EDITORIAL

Well it's been over two years now since the first issue of METAL FORCES was published. I don't think anyone involved in the magazine really though back in August 1983 that we would survive this long, and of course we couldn't have done so without the support of you, the readers, and of course all record companies, especiallly the independants who have also supported and respected our promotion of the metal scene.

From the volume of mail we've been getting, our "Penbangers" feature is undoubtably very popular with a majority of our readers. But in order to help reduce a lengthy waiting list before letters get to appear, we would ask that letters be kept as short as possible, and please avoid trying to list every band in existance in an attempt to outdo the next person. In future such letters will be disregarded or severly edited.

Please keep those letters coming in giving your views on content, direction and/or ways of improving METAL FORCES. For all those who have been demanding more speed/death metal, you can expect the content to be tilted in your favour in coming issues. Although the likes of Dave Reynolds and Kelv Hellrazer will continue to satisfy those into the more restrained musical styles.

Issue No. 14 will be available early in October and, if all goes to plan will feature RAZOR, DESTRUCTION, WARLOCK, RUNNING WILD, WENDY O'WILLIAMS, CELTIC FROST and of course much more. So see you soon.

METAL FORCES HEAD OFFICE
17 LIVINGSTONE LINK
CHELLS
STEVENAGE
HERTS SG2 OEP
ENGLAND
Telephone(0438)720797

EDITOR
BERNARD DOE

ASSISTANT EDITOR
DAVE CONSTABLE

STAFF WRITERS
DAVE REYNOLDS, STEVE HAMMONDS AND KELV HELLRAZER.

CONTRIBUTORS
Ken Anthony and Mike Vergane

STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
WAYNE YOUNGMAN

SECRETARY
DEBORAH DOE

LAYOUT
BERNARD DOE

PLAYLISTS

BERNARD DOE

1. Evil Invaders - RAZOR (Viper Records LP)
2. Spread The Disease - ANTHRAX (Megaforce Records LP)
3. Skeptics Apocalypse - AGENT STEEL (Combat LP)
4. Speak English Or Die - S.O.D.(Megaforce Records LP)
5. MERSINARY (US) Demo.

DAVE CONSTABLE

1. Sinful - SINFUL (Shades LP)
2. Forward Into Battle - ENGLISH DOGS (Rot Records LP)
3. Cellarful Of Noise - CELLARFUL OF NOISE (CBS Associated LP)
4. Tales Of Terror - HALLOWS EVE (Metal Blade LP)
5. Cast The First Stone - URGENT (Manhattan LP)

STEVE HAMMONDS

1. Land Of The Gun - LEGS DIAMOND (Advance tape of forthcoming LP)
2. JOSHUA (US) Demo
3. Invasion Of Your Privacy - RATT (Atlantic LP)
4. Maniac's Revenge - M80 (Roadrunner LP)
5. Theatre Of Pain - MOTLEY CRUE (Elektra LP)

KELV HELLRAZER

1. Shot Thru' The Heart - SURGIN (track from "When Midnight Comes" LP on EMI America)
2. Until It Hurts - WHITE SISTER (US) Demo
3. Red Lights The Sky - TOUGH LOVE (track from "Chicago's Finest" comp.LP)
4. Cuz I Wancha - DIAMOND REXX (US) Demo
5. LA ROCKS (US) Demo

DAVE REYNOLDS

1. Killer Elite - AVENGER (Neat LP)
2. What's Your Name - GIUFFRIA (Track from "Gotcha" Soundtrack LP on MCA)
3. Treason - ASSASSIN (Track from "Metal Madness" compilation LP on New Renaissance)
4. Battle At Helms Deep - ATTACKER (Metal Blade LP)
5. Actor - 44 MAGNUM (C Moon - Jap Import)

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17 Livingstone Link, Chells, Stevenage, Herts SG2 OEP, ENGLAND. Tel: (0438) 720797

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NEWSNEWSNEWSNEWSNEWSNEWSNEWSNEWS

o CELTIC FROST have parted company with bassist Martin Ain due to musical differences. Ain has been replaced by Dominique Steiner and the band have just begun recording their new album, "To Mega Therion", in Berlin which is expected to be released on Noise in November.

o New York Metallists CITIES release their debut EP in England on October 1st on Metal Masters Records.

o EXCITER have parted company with guitarist John Ricci. It is understood that a replacement for Ricci has been found and that the Canadian trio will still go ahead with their forthcoming European tour. It is also rumoured that the band - who are contracted to Music For Nations to record at least one more studio album - will split and go their own way once their commitments have been fulfilled.

o Dallas band SWEET SAVAGE (pictured above) have been causing a lot of major label interest since they moved up to Los Angeles. The band, who are being compared to RATT and MOTLEY CRUE are currently in the Baby-O Recorders studio with producer Dana Strum, of OZZY OSBOURNE and SIN fame, and engineer Mike Davis whose list of credits include KISS, MOTLEY CRUE and QUIET RIOT. SWEET SAVAGE's line-up is Laine Sheridan (bass), brother Chris (guitar), Randy St. John (drums) and Joey Crabtree (vocals). We understand that Joey may well change that surname before the band release their debut album! Incidentally the album will probably include a version of SWEET's "Fox On The Run".

o LYNN ALLEN are getting ready to sign for a major deal with two major companies interested. Tracks that look likely to appear on the bands first major LP include "Stranger", "Can't Stay Awake" and "Take It Off".

NEWSNEWSNEWSNEWSNEWSNEWSNEWSNEWS

o WHITE LION has recorded one track so far titled "The Web Of Desire" for the film 'The Money Pit'. The band are currently negotiating for deals on their "Fight To Survive" LP.

o Former ACCEPT and HAZZARD guitarist Herman Frank has joined the German band SINNER who release their new album entitled "Touch Of Sin" on the Noise label at the end of August. Other Noise releases include RUNNING WILD's "Branded And Exiled" and TYRAN PACE's "Long Live Metal".

o Southern Californian based Trans-Euro Records are currenty seeking 7 European and British bands to sign to their label for release in America during the next 12 months. Interested bands should send demo tape, photo and biography to Trans-Euro Records, P.O.Box 3612, Alhambra, CA 91803, USA.

o Megaforce Records are planning to release a compilation album entitled "Megavault" featuring previously unreleased material. Tracks due to appear on the album are "Take It Away" (live) - RAVEN, "The Gunslinger" - ANTHRAX, "Ram It Up" - S.O.D., "Boney Moroney" - BLUE CHEER, "Red Diamond" - IMPERIOUS REX, "Battle Beyond The Stars" - MEDIEVAL STEEL, "Schools Out" - GRAVEDIGGER, "Death Revenge" - EXCITER, "Rotten To The Core" - OVERKILL and as yet an untitled track from T.T.QUICK.

o ARMED FORCE have just finished recording their new album entitled "Heavy Artillery". The album will be released on the bands own Machine Gun Records.

o FATE, the band formed by ex-MERCYFUL FATE guitarist Hank Shermann, have signed to EMI.

o French thrash metal specialists MORSURE release their debut album on Devils Records during September.

o SIRE CHOIR, a five-part harmony heavy rock band from Memphis have signed a management deal with Johnny Z's Crazed Management who are currently negotiating with major labels for the release of the bands debut album.

o The new album from LEGS DIAMOND (pictured above) will feature the following tracks, "My Own Game", "Land Of The Gun", "Turn To Stone", "Waitin' For The Nite", "Steal A Heart", "Right Between The Eyes", "Rock Doktor" and "Twisted Love". As yet no release date has been set

o Vocalist Jeff Scott-Soto has left Yngwie Malmsteen's RISING FORCE and has been replaced by Mark Boals who was a member of TED NUGENT's band on his last tour.

o WHITE SISTER look set to change their name to RADIO VISION. The band are currently recording tracks for a new album with new keyboard player Byron Scott (ex-ROCKWAY). Tracks scheduled to appear on the album - tentively entitled "Dancing On Midnight" - include "Same Me Tonight", "Trouble Shooter", "April Your No Fool", "Until It Hurts", "Dancing On Midnight" and a cover version of the old Jackie Wilson classic "Lonely Tearrops". There is also a possibility that the band may cover the BEATLES "Day Tripper" unless Kelv Hellrazer can persuade them otherwise.

Meanwhile WHITE SISTER's vocalist and bassist, Dennis Churchill, has recorded two tracks - "Castle In The Sand" and "Crossing Over" - for the soundtrack of the film "Crystal Heart".

o MONTAGE who were featured in 'Demo-lition' in MF 11 have a new contact address where their demo may be obtained. Write to:- MONTAGE, 2020 Wesley Drive, Arlington, TX 76012, USA.

o "Speed Metal Hell" is the name of the latest compilation album to be released by New Renaissance Records and features SAVAGE GRACE, AT WAR, ATTILLA, MONOLITH, SCANNERS, VICE, MEDIEVAL, EXECUTIONER, STALLION, ARTILLERY, SHINING BLADE, MIDNITE VICE, BATTLE BRAT and WHIPLASH. The album is expected to be in the shops by the end of September and will also be available on cassette with two extra tracks.

o LA ROCKS who feature ex-JOSHUA vocalist Jim Wilkinson have signed a recording deal with Jet Records.

o Silver Fin Records releases a compilation of Chicago's unsigned metal bands in September entitled "Chicago Metalworks". It features DIAMOND REX, PARADOXX,WAR CRY, LUNACY, ARCANGEL, PROPHET, THELONY, POWERAGE, RAMPAGE, HAMMERON, TORMENT, HEADSTONE, FLAUGHTER, XSTROYERS, INFRARED, TRYTON, BLACKSTAR, MAELSTROM and ENFORCER.

o LA glamsters DIZZY BITCH have an LP out in September entitled "In The Pink" on the Azra record label.

o LA based LONDON issue their debut album entitled "Non Stop Rock" on Mike Varney's Shrapnel Records in September.

Onslaught

BLACK SPEED TORPEDOES

BERNARD DOE Talks To The Bristol Black Metallists

One of the most surprising vinyl releases for me so far this year, and I guess for many metal fans, has come from the Bristol based quartet, ONSLAUGHT. Their debut album "Power From Hell" contains some of the best black/death/thrash (or whatever the current hip phrase is) metal ever laid down on vinyl. It also proved that a British band is still capable of producing class material on a par with SLAYER, EXODUS, IRON ANGEL and alike in modern day metal trends.

Like the ENGLISH DOGS (featured in MF 11), ONSLAUGHT started life as a punk band back in 1983 playing gigs with the likes of THE VARUKERS, BROKEN BONES and DISORDER. The bands first vinyl appearance was with two tracks on the Pax compilation album "Daffodils To The Daffodils, Here's The Daffodils". "Yeah, but we regret ever doing that" says drummer Steve Grice "We were just desperate to get some material out on vinyl at the time."

An EP that was due for release on the same label never materialized. Why? Steve: "Well we recorded it

PAUL MAHONEY

but it was never released as we wasn't pleased with it - the recording was terrible."

Steve Grice and Nige Rockett (guitars/vocals) are the only founding members in the current ONSLAUGHT line-up, which is completed by bassist Jase Stallard and lead vocalist Paul Mahoney who used to be the band's manager. Paul explains how he became the singer. "Well our old vocalist left just before this gig we had coming up in Bristol and I was the only one around who knew the lyrics so they decided to throw me in at the deep end. Anyway it was a really good gig so they kept me on."

How often do the band play live? Paul: So far we've played about 25 gigs mainly in the Bristol area, but at the moment we're trying to set up a UK tour". Jase: "Yeah, right now we want to play as many gigs as possible and hopefully our tour will stretch from Gateshead right the way down the country so we can get more known to the metal fans."

So your audiences are mainly punks? Paul:"Yeah, at the moment they are but we've started to get more and more metalheads, which is great because that's what we want."

What made the band change its style from Punk to Black/Death metal? Paul: "Well we were all into the usual punk stuff like DISCHARGE etc... but that kind of sound started to get static and boring. Then we heard the first MET-

NIGE ROCKETT

STEVE GRICE

JASE STALLARD

ALLICA and SLAYER album and were completely blown by it and decided that this was the kind of music we wanted to play. It was very powerful and original; the kind of thing that punk had been back in '76."

At the moment there seems to be a lot of punk bands changing to metal, why do you think this is? Paul: "The only punk on the scene now is really total thrash - no tunes or anything - and everybody is getting bored with it so they're looking for something new that's still raw and energetic, and Death Metal holds that. It's the kind of most energetic thing going, so a lot of people are changing to it." And by all accounts a lot of people are buying it too. "Power From Hell" sold out of its initial UK pressing on C.O.R. Records within days and it seems there's a huge demand for ONSLAUGHT in Europe. Also the album has been released in the States too. Paul: "Yeah, it's been released over there on the Pus Mort label that's run by a guy called Pus whose given us a lot of support through a paper he writes for called "Maximum Rock'N'Roll". And with Japan also showing interest ONSLAUGHT look like becoming one of Britain's biggest exports of Black Metal.

Since I spoke to the band, ONSLAUGHT have been auditioning for a rhythm guitarist but were unable to find anyone suitable. Instead the band have had a reshuffel in their own personel. Jase Stallard takes up the rhythm guitar duties and Paul Mahoney takes over Stallard's bassist role as well as carrying on with lead vocals. UK fans can catch the band on their "Power From Hell" tour during September.

Contact: ONSLAUGHT c/o Steve Grice, 58 Glenwood Drive, Oldland Common, Bristol, ENGLAND.

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POLISH HM fan into Pretty Maids, Oz, Torch, Silver Mountain, Strike and all Scandinavian metal wishes to write to those with similar tastes. Marek Bartosiewicz, 00-337 Warszawa, ul. Bartoszewicza 1c/41, POLAND.

18-year-old death metal maniac wants to trade demos. I'm into: Fate, Venom, Celtic Frost, Sodom, Slayer, Destruction, Bathory, and other death metal bands. Please write to: Rob Loiacano, 56 Virgil Ave., Buffalo, NY, 14216, USA.

I'N a 17-year-old Black Metallist into Running Wild, Fate, Venom, Slayer, Metallica, Megadeth, Ruthless, Exciter, WASP, Exodus, all REAL headbangers! Would like to hear from anyone, anywhere into same. Want to trade shirts, posters, demos, live tapes of especially Fate, Venom and the like. Jay Hatch, 6830 Cleveland Ave., Stevensville, MI 49127, USA.

16-YEAR-OLD hardcore thrasher who rages 'til death. I'm into Slayer, Metallica, Venom, Anthrax, Gravedigger, Brainfever, Voi Vod, Motorhead and others who are fast, hard 'n' furious. I wish to correspond with thrashers all over the world - no wimps please. Also wish to buy live and demo tapes of thrash/speed/death/power metal bands (especially from US). So if you want to trade blasphemy with the Jacobean Antichrist and/or sell tapes write to: James Gibson, 25/7 Glenclunie Drive, Darnley, G53 7HH, SCOTLAND.

CANADIAN banger into Metallica, Anthrax, Exciter, Anvil, Torch, Savatage, Witchkiller, Reaper, Dio, Accept, Megadeth, Thrust, Wasp, and Gravedigger. Wants to hear from all bangers who are willing to trade live tapes/demos and/or correspondence. Keep On Rockin'. Greg Bereza, 3219, 11th St. West Saskatoon, SK CANADA S7M IK2.

19-YEAR-OLD male wants pen pals! Fave band is Twisted Sister, but also freaks out on Kiss, AC/DC, Van Halen, Motorhead, Rose Tattoo, Girlschool, Rock Goddess, and Bengal Tigers. Write to: Norm Leonard, 49 Darley St., Katoomba, 2780, NSW, AUSTRALIA.

GERMAN metalhead(13) seeks metallians from the UK or US for a penbattle. I'm into total speed metal and Queensryche. Hope to get heavy letters. Stay hard!!! Wolfram Kuper, R-dietz-weg 13, 6231 Schwalbach, GERMANY.

I'M a 17-year-old headbanger into Queensryche, Metallica, Venom, Lee Aaron, Angel, WASP, Loudness and lots more. I'm interested in trading live tapes and demos (especially Lee Aaron) and also would like to trade/correspond with all Japanese females. All letters answered! Write: Craig Dugan, RT 2 Box 323, Delmar, DE 19940, USA.

AMERICAN metalhead seeking true destruction through the mail. Wants to buy, trade tapes. Into Whiplash, Slayer, Manowar, Jag Panzer, Liege Lord, Havoc, Metallica, Anvil Chorus, Anger, Mercyful Fate and Dio. If you like my music write to me!! Your list gets mine! Thrash Til Death! Beans, 219 Nair Hall, CUPA, Clarion, PA 16214, USA. No Motley Crue/Ratt poser wimps please!!!

I'M a 20-year-old Australian male into Crue, Krokus, Saxon, Waysted, Boss, AC/DC, Iron Maiden and I want penpals from all over the world. Edward Kellett, 17 Couch St., Sunshine, Victoria, AUSTRALIA.

I'M a 17-year-old male who's a fuckin' heavy metal freak. I'm into Metallica No. 1 heavy metal band in the world. Raven, Slayer, WASP, Tokyo Blade, Fate etc.. I would love to hear from all leather clad ladies only. Send picture. Doesn't matter what country. Nude photos or normal! 'No fuckin' uglies'. Felix Polnasek, 158 East Camplain Rd., Manville, NJ 08835, USA.

21-YEAR-OLD guy from Paris, wants to trade live tapes (over 300) and also pictures, professional quality such as, Metallica, Dio, Ozzy, Van Halen, Kiss, Accept, Uli Roth, Maiden, H.Bomb, Vulcain, Saxon etc.. also for trading merchandise. I'm into: Judas Priest, Metallica, Kiss, Def Leppard, Halen, Ozzy, H.Bomb, Ratt etc. Your list gets mine. Write to: Eric Galinsky, 107 Rue De Patay, 75013, Paris, FRANCE.

I'M a 14-year-old death metal maniac from Frisco. Would like to correspond with headbangers from anywhere and trade live tapes. Favs are: Trouble, Stone Vengeance, Metallica, Megadeth, Manowar, Carnivore, and many more. Write to: Mary Coffey, 76 Topeka, SF, CA, 04124, USA.

MANIAC hardcore thrasher into Slayer, Megadeth, Exodus, Abattoir, Voi Vod, Piledriver, Exciter, Anthrax, Metallica, Metal Church, Iron Angel, Destruction, Sodom, Thrust, Living Deaht, Jag Panzer, Gravedigger, Hellhammer and many others wants to correspond with males and females from all over the world to exchange metal information, demos and news. Write to: Nick Cailas, Vironos 41, 35100 Lamia, GREECE.

I'M a 16-year-old female metal maniac. I want to know who is or was the best guitar player ever. I'm into W.A.S.P., Metallica (faves), Steeler, Keel, Loudness, Slayer,(Narita, Wyzard, Presence, Karian, Juggernaut (Tex)). Need penpals. No wimps or phonys. Carmen J Quinones, 752 Kentucky, SA, Tex. 78201, USA

17-YEAR-OLD thrasher into Overkill, Savage Grace, Exodus, Megadeth, Agent Steel and many more, looking to trade or buy demos or live tapes by Abattoir, Savage Grace, Hallows Eve etc. Also I'm intrested in US mags. Write to: Christian Bol, Engstraat 14 5256BD Heusden, HOLLAND. Thrash till the fuckin' death!

ATTENTION: I'm an 18-year-old maniac from Sweden! I would like to trade tapes/live colour pics/t.shirts, with maniacs from LA or elsewhere. Especially Metal Queens! I'm into Rough Cutt and Dio and Pretty Maids, Keel, Dokken, Q5, Waysted, UFO and many more. I've got lots of live tapes with Silver Mountain, Rising Force, Dio, Priest, Pretty Maids and many more. So if any of you out there have live or demo tapes of Keel, Malice, Q5, Rough Cutt just grab your pen and write to: Patrick Carlsson, Uarg 3, S-27400, Sliurip, SWEDEN. All letters will be answered.

18-year-old Metallithrasher wants to hear from other pen-bangin' maniacs worldwide (esp. Spain, Germany, Holland) to trade live tapes, demos, mags, info, etc. Some of my faves include Metallica, Exciter, Exodus, Slayer, Voi Vod, Sodom, Destruction, Astaroth, Vulcain as well as Spanish destructors Baron Rojo, Obus and others. Send letters/lists to: Charlie Garcia, 1605, Waterloo St., Apt 5, Los Angeles, CA 90026, USA. Thrraaaash 'til deth!!!

WANTED: 4 hard to find Iron Maiden tour shirts mentioned in new book, made only for New York, California and Texas: Eddie swinging from Empire State Building holding King Kong, Eddie and lobotomised Statue Of Liberty, Eddie riding a shark surfboard style and Eddie gnawing on an armadillo. Anyone in these three states please write: Tom Blackwell, 4350 Hunt, St Louis, MO 63110,USA.

I'M a 27-year-old metal maniac my fave bands are: Twisted Sister, Motley Crue, Fates Warning, Queensryche, White Lion, Griffen, WASP and Harlott and many many more. All metal fans write, especially Canadian metal people into Harlott to trade or I'll buy pics of the band, please write: Jay Craven, 9117 Everglade, Houston, Texas, 77078, USA.

I'M looking for everyone who ever recorded a Metallica gig (especially in the US) or collect Metallica tapes. I'm also into Queensryche, Savatage, Manowar, Megadeth, Slayer, Dio, Crue, etc. Your list gets mine. Write to: Uwe Schnadelbach, Jugenheimer Str. 7, 6000 Frankfurt/M.71 GERMANY.

TWO female metal maniacs (singer and bassist) forming band, would like to hear from any female metal guitarists or drummers or any other female metal musicians who take their metal seriously. Into: Wyche, Maiden, Exciter, Accept, MSG, TKO, Fates Warning, Olde Scorpions, Olde Priest, Dokken, Steeler, Stryper, Rail, Loudness and some others. No poseurs please. Write: Dee & Jenni at 140 Clipper Avenue, Edison, New Jersey, 08817, USA.

CHOW Hanoi Rocks fans, metal heads and thrasher punks. Write to Karen (Kak) Spencer faves are Hanoi, Metallica, Possessed, GBH, Broken Bones, Slayer and lots more. I'm 20-years-old. Write to: Karen (Kak) Spencer, 2129 Kellogg Pk Dr., Pomona CA 91768 USA.

Half-Deaf hardcore death banger (19), Male into thrashing mayhem such as: Slayer, Exodus, Celtic Frost, Axe Wielder, Metallica, Sodom, Dark Angel, Hellwitch, Hirax, Exciter, Venom, Death, Iron Angel, Megadeth, Powerdeath, Wargod, Anthrax, Voi Vod, Possessed, Destruction, Whiplash, Wicked Rage, Anti-Christ and others. I am the lead guitarist for DEATHFORCE. LA's fastest thrashers around. Wants to hear from axe thrashers around the world to trade tapes and other material. If you're anti-Twisted Sister, Crue or Maiden then write to: Chris Spellman, 8733 6th St., Downey CA 90241, USA. (Death to Posers!)

ABOUT 1,300 HM live & demo tapes for trade. Have lots of speed/death/black metal live tapes + many rare live shows and demos. I also trade tapes for US records. I'm looking for live tapes of Hawaii, Jag Panzer, Liege Lord, Agent Steele & Hallows Eve and for a California concert recorder who has top sounding live tapes. Write to: Felix Lethmate, P.O.Box 1721, 4450 Lingen, W.Germany.

HOMOCIDAL Maniac into thrashing death noises of Slayer, Exodus, Sodom, Iron Angel, Destruction, Megadeth, Nasty Savage, Black Task, Dark Angel and many more also I need help with my magazine HOMOCIDAL MANIAC THRASHER. I need advertisments from other mags, and demos from new power metal bands. Interested thrashers please write to: Tom Walsh, 1361 Hall Rd, West Chester, PA 19380 USA. All letters answered.

METAL Thrashing Man looking for real HM bands in concert on both VHS and Beta video tape. I have several shows to trade, so all you metal heads pick up your pens and write to: Bill Baran, 14 Havenbrook Blvd., Willowdale, Ontario M2J IA4, CANADA.

I'M an 18-year-old Japanese metal merchant and power thrasher. Looking to correspond with anyone into Loudness, Mara, Blizzard, 44 Magnum, X-Ray, Rajas, Marino, Make-Up, Action, Vow Wow, Saxon, UFO, Tank, Destruction, Sodom, Venom and Oz. If you are interested please write to Ed McCarthy, 26 Atlast Lane, Hicksville, NY 11801, USA.

TOTAL Hardcore Thrasher wants to hear from <u>all</u> death thrashers and speed rages to buy/trade demos, live tapes, mags, buttons, videos (VHS) etc. I'm into Sodom, Destruction, Exodus, Celtic Frost, Megadeth, Slayer, Bathory, Death, Iron Angel, Possessed, Voi Vod and all death/speed/black metal send lists. All letters answered. Mike Aulthouse, 1547 Embreeville Rd., Downington PA 19335, USA.

THRASHERS - if any of you thrashers have demos by Metallica, Exodus, Megadeth, Slayer or any other power metal group and you would like to sell please send list to: Chris Hankey, 209 Comly Rd., Apt C-16, Lincoln Park, NJ 07035. USA. Any of you thrashers want to talk about the rulers of metal SLAYER please write.

17-year-old metal maniac into Metallica, Slayer, M.Fate, Metal Church, Anthrax (w/Neil Turbin), Venom, Exodus, Trauma, Megadeth, Exciter, Trouble etc. I'd originally like to buy any demos or live tapes of the above bands. Everyone write!! All letters answered. Craid O'Brien, 6204 E.Mercer Way, Mercer Island, WA 98040, USA.

16-YEAR-OLD metal maniac wants to trade live + demo tapes with anyone in this fuckin' world. I'm into: Destruction, Voi Vod, Death, Sodom, Megadeth, Exodus, Possessed, Running Wild, Anthrax, Slayer, Hirax, Nuclear Assault, Exciter, Abattoir, Venom, Celtic Frost, Blessed Death etc. Your list gets mine. Write <u>now</u> to: Louis Trausch, 29 rue J.B. Esch, L-1473, LUXEMBOURG.

HARDCORE Thrasher into Exodus, Corrosion of Conformity, Voi Vod, Onslaught, Discharge, Suicidal Tendencies, Destruction, Slayer, Iron Angel, Backwater, Possessed, Death and many more. Wants to trade tapes, mags etc or just correspond with anyone, anywhere. Write to: Paul, 2 Mallowdale Close, Eastham Wirral, Merseyside, L62 8EY, ENGLAND.

16-year-old thrasher into Voi Vod, Death, Exodus, Venom, Destruction, Sodom, Bathory, Possessed, Slayer etc. Would like to trade demos/live tapes with any hardcore thrashers! Your list gets mine! No wimps or poseurs!! Send lists and letters to: Darren Anfinson, 98-678 Papalealii St., Aiea, HI 96701, USA.

SPEED-CORE hellrat into death metal bands like: Possessed, Death, Sodom, Slayer, Exodus, Mayhem, Destruction, Voi Vod, Bathory etc. Would like to trade demos/live tapes. No fuckin' poseurs or wimps!! Your list gets mine! Write to: Raymond Bala, 2857 Kuikele Pl., Honolulu, HI 96819, USA.

VIOLENT fiend into all thrash, death, speed metal bands, especially, Exodus, Slayer, Metallica, Anthrax, Iron Angel, Destruction, Have Mercy, Hallows Eve, Running Wild, Possessed etc. Would like to correspond and buy/trade demos with absolutely anyone, anywhere. Would also like to trade fanzines, photos, badges, patches etc. All letters will be answered. Write to me: Sy Johns (The Violent Fiend), 2 Birch Road, Meols, Wirral, Merseyside, L47 9RH, ENGLAND. Telephone: 51 632 2157. Break your neck and <u>die</u>!

I'M a crazy death thrash maniac from Japan into Possessed, Exodus, Megadeth, Iron Angel, Destruction and Japanese local band Reaction, Genocide. I'll buy or trade live and demo tapes. Send a demo list if you have one. So please write to: Satuki Takashima, 1-27-6, Sakurai, Minoo City, Odaka, JAPAN T562.

FEMALE death metal die-hard into Exodus, Blessed Death, Iron Angel, Nuclear Assault, Deathrow etc.,seeks semi-intelligent hardcore lunatics to trade with. Also, if you are in a wildly heavy band and want exposure, contact me, it may be worth your while! Irene Kuzel, P.O.Box 17557, Rochester, NY 14621, USA.

KICK-ASS mother fucker wants to trade live/demo tapes with evil ones around the world. Into thrashing bands like Voi Vod, Slayer, Possessed, Destruction, Exodus, Sodom, Bathory, Hirax, Megadeth, Old Metallica etc. So write to: "Thrash" , 795 Moneill St., Apt 105, Honolulu, Hawaii 96817, USA.

ATTENTION Metal Mongloids! I have tapes for trading. Includes: Fate, Enforcer, Slayer, Ruthless etc. Give me your list and I'll send you mine. Write to: Darren Deal, 4163 Stotts St., Riverside CA 92503, USA.

HI, I'm 19-years-old, male from Farmington NM. Would like to correspond with other headbangers - into Malice, Warhead, Overkill, Obsession, Fist and Culprit - Please write to: Leroy Antonio, 126 E.Main, Farmington, NM 87401, USA.

I'M a Chinese metallist and want to hear from anyone in the world who wants to swap tapes and demos seriously. I've got demos by: Have Mercy, Brocas Helm, Mercyful Fate, Sceptre, Attacker, Exodus, Warhead, Sodom, Nasty Savage and Hallows Eve and many more. Live tapes of: Exciter, Manowar, Queensryche, Overkill, Exodus, Slayer and Mercyful Fate and so on. I like Trouble, N.Savage, Dark Angel, Exodus, Warlord, V.Steele and want to get hold of a demo by Cities, Agent Steele and anything by Sceptre! All letters are answered. Write to me in Dutch or English. Randy Tang, 38 Over Street, Brighton BN1 4EE, East Sussex, ENGLAND.

17-year-old male heavy metal head into <u>Metallica</u>, Exciter, Raven, Grave Digger, Celtic Frost, Voi Vod, Megadeth, Exodus, Slayer, Anthrax etc. I would like to buy/trade live tapes and demos for the above bands with any <u>real</u> headbanger. Nothing is too fast or too loud! Metal Up Your Fuckin' Ass!! Write To: Steven Glick, 34-15 Parsons Blvd 2J, Flushing NY, 11354, USA.

I'M a 24-year-old Metal Maiden who would like some pen-pals. I'm into Mamas Boys, Rising Force, Scorpions, Iron Maiden, Motorhead, etc.. All letters welcome. Liz Louie, 212 N. Vendome St., Los Angeles, CA 90026, USA.

FRENCH metal kid into Led Zep, Stooges, Rush, Rising Force, Ratt, Slayer, Crue, Exodus, Bon Jovi, and so on, wants to trade live and demo tapes all over the world especially US, Australia, Japan, Canada and England. Send your list to: Patrick Buisine, 47 rue de Chailloit, 95100 Argenteuil, FRANCE. Sure Answer.

20-year-old, raging death fiend, heavily into the likes of <u>Celtic Frost</u>, Exodus, Slayer, Venom, Death, Voi Vod, Anthrax, Bathory, Discharge, Hirax, Possessed, Destruction and loads more. Would like to trade live/demo tapes with other death fiends around the glove. Your list gets mine. Also doing a 'zine called PHOENIX MILITIA, contributors are welcome so write or die, (make them earbleed)- write to: Middie, 24 Duncansby Drive, Bromborough, Wirral, Merseyside, L63 ONY,ENGLAND.

HEY You, fuckin' metal freaks! I'm a mad metal maniac from Mexico looking for T.shirts, stickers, posters, patches, of any kind of metal bands. Want to buy them, but maybe could trade. Also want to get letters from metallists all over the world, I answer them all. I'm into the likes of Raven, Metallica, Manowar, TKO, Slayer, Anthrax, Exciter, Witchfynde, Talas and many, many more. Antonio List, Fco, Field Surado 67, Col. Independencia, Mexico D.F.03630, MEXICO.

I'M a 26-year-old male. I'm into classic and new heavy metal bands (to many to list). I'm interested in buying all live or demo tapes (send list). I'm seeking to correspond and meet with Heavy Metal females 19+. Should have a open mind about life. So please write to: Ronald Slaughter, P O.Box 162, Kansasville, WI 53139, USA.

Lynn Allen

HOVERING ON THE EDGE OF ROCK STARDOM

KELV HELLRAZER Investigates With BILL PEIFFER And DALE FISHER At The Helm

LYNN ALLEN, who the hell are they? I've never seen any of their records in Shades before, I hear you ask yourself. Well LYNN ALLEN do have an LP out and a damn fine one at that, but I'm afraid it sold out within the first six weeks of release. The LP in question is titled "We Laugh At You" (see MF 12 for glowing review) and was first brought to my attention by a fellow magazine writer/bourbon drinker who was actually put onto the band by MF's Mike Vergane. The band, well actually keyboardist Dale Fisher and vocalist/guitarist Bill Peiffer were in London recently to follow up on some British record company interest. Also present was the groups British connection John Frederickson, leaving lead guitarist Tim Compton, bassist Tim Murphy and drummer Bob Boyd back in good ole Illinois.

I approached the rather snazzy looking Holiday Inn Hotel with much apprehension. How are these rich people gonna react to my pink spikey locks, then out of the blue a bell boy approaches me "Mr Hellrazer the band are waiting upstairs for you" he says. See I'm even famous in Green Park Constable (cut the Kerrap and get on with the interview... Ed). After being introduced I firstly quiz them for a band history. How did the band form? Bill: "Well man, the drummer and I formed a band about 5½ years ago the rest of the members of the band were also in that band but it split up for a while. So we've been together for about 5 years with the exception of Dale right next to me here who joined the band about two years ago. The other guys went to LA and Atlanta but didn't do so well so they came back to daddy Bill."

Dale: "We were getting into the ruck of becoming like 'oh just another club act' so Bill said "Fuck it, let's get something down on vinyl". The manager at that time thought Bill was crazy, but anyway we released this 3-tracker that featured "Leave Me Alone" which did really well airplay wise. Obviously when it appeared on "We Laugh At You" it was like an old number to a lot of people. It was really worth doing the LP as it got us a lot of attention."

How did you get the name LYNN ALLEN? Bill: "It was a girl I went to school with - Everybody used to hate her! But I didn't; she was a beautiful slim girl with a delicate figure". Dale: She was a pig". Bill: "We used to call the band ART YOUNG that named after our local sewage works guy so everyone had a good laugh about that."

John Frederickson then hands me a picture of the band onstage. My god, I haven't seen a lighting rig like this in ages. Bill enlightens me "We have just about the biggest lighting rig in the mid-west. It came about a long while back. I was in a band with Jesse from THE TIME and it was kind of his big thing but when he left it became my big thing. So I stared off with a nice amount of equipment and then as each member joined it became larger and larger."

Do you think the market is kinda getting sewn up by the WASP's and CRUE's of this world? Thus making your chances more limited. Dale: "The States has such a wide audience making room for all forms of music. Like some of the clubs we play, one night they have a totally pop band, then the next night a heavy band. Our music is a lot different live. I don't think we can capture what we do on the records. We're quite a bit heavier live. We have more of an edge to our sound." Bill: "Our rapport with the crowd is really good, like I saw a pretty dead crowd at the Marquee last week, well I would have had those fuckers standing on their heads". John F: "I've been around a lot longer than these guys in rock'n'roll and definately in Chicago a lot longer. LYNN ALLEN plays a Chicago club which is notoriously a liggers paradise where all the cool people come; there is a new band that night (LYNN ALLEN) and the crowd is ninety per cent musicians. Those ninety per cent of musos stayed the whole night. They didn't get up and dance because that wasn't cool but they were rivetted there and that's the thing. Bill basically is what is what is known as an aggressive performer, either the crowd does what he wants them to or he tells them to get the fuck out." Bill: "Sometimes they leave and sometimes they do what I want, it's about 50/50 which ain't bad."

Finally, the guys played me some new demos, which they had just finished. Naturally they impressed me. Bill: "That's the main reason we're here; to promote these new demos to the record companies." John F: "Wherever there's interest for the band I'm gonna follow up on that, we have about three British companies interested. So hopefully this visit will tie the knot for the band." I certainly hope so, otherwise no-one is gonna hear the band in the UK. That would also be a waste of such a good LP in "We Laugh At You". Let's hope the record companies don't carry out the LP title.

For more info write to: LYNN ALLEN, Ltd., P.O.Box 2369, Davenport, Iowa, 52809, USA.

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★TEXAS METAL★

MIKE VERGANE REPORTS ON FIVE OF THEIR BEST

Music in Texas has always been in the shadows of California and New York and it will always be that way. But, that doesn't mean that the bands in Texas are any worse. There are a lot of fine bands in Texas, including DALLAS', PANTERA and AUSTIN'S MILITIA and WATCHTOWER (featured in MF 5). But, five of the best are sitting in Texas' two most important cities, Houston and San Antonio.

I'd like to thank Liliana Martinez for all her help and info on the bands from San Antonio and Mark Cameron for the use of his photos.

HELSTAR

Pic Mark Cameron

BILL LIONEL

Without a doubt the most popular and favourite metal band in Texas. But what has happened to them lately? To be honest they did virtually nothing for over six months. The two main reasons for this were love and money. It makes the world go around, so why not metal, too? To make a long story a little shorter; after the release of "Burning Star" HELSTAR saw their bassist Paul Medina, their two lead guitarists Tom Rogers and Larry Barragan, their drummer Hector Pavon and his brother (and the band's manager) Oscar Pavon either quit or be fired from the band.

This leaves only the lead singer Bill Lionel as the only member who remained with the band thru this whole ordeal. As it turned out, Barragan came back to the band and brought with him a new bassist Jerry Abarca to replace Medina. Later, the band brought in a new drummer Rene Luna and another guitarist Rober Trevino to complete the new line-up.

The band has begun work on their upcoming LP under the working titls of "Remnants Of War". Now that the band has found a stable management organization with Starstruck. It looks like HELSTAR should be back in the limelight in '86. And hopefully there to stay.

JUGGERNAUT

Pic Liliana Martinez

(L to R) Scott Womack(bass), Harlan Glenn(vocals), Eddie Katilius(guitars), Enzo Melton (drums).

An interesting band to say the least. A Texas version of SHIT DEATH? Visually, Yes! Musically, no.

JUGGERNAUT was formed in San Antonio in early '85, and have already made a big splash on the metal scene. On their very professionally produced 4-song demo, JUGGERNAUT comes across with a MERCYFUL FATE song-writing style without the King Diamond vocals. In fact, Glenn's vocals remind me more of HELSTAR's Bill Lionel more than anyone and it works well.

Their live show is where things get pretty strange. Included in frontman Harlan Glenn's antics is the hanging of his guitarist, slitting the throat of his bassist, torturing and molesting a schoolboy and the throwing of rats into the audience just so you fans don't get bored inbetween sets. These boys have toys in their attics! Write to JUGGERNAUT at: 3401 Trailway Park, San Antonio, TX 78247 USA.

NARITA

Pic Liliana Martinez

(L to R) David McClain(drums), Steve Cooper (vocals), Don Van Stavern(bass), Mark Reale (guitars)

By now you're saying, "Hey RIOT had an album by the same name. These guys must be a RIOT rip-off band."

Wrong. They are RIOT. Now based out of San Antonio, Mark Reale kept the name RIOT after the band's break-up and decided to keep the riot going on. Then earlier in '85, he decided to change the name of the band to NARITA due to the inevitable change in sound.

RIOT had long been a stronghold in San Antonio. So what better place to look for musicians to start a new band? At this same time, San Antonio's premier metal band SLAYER had just broken up. So, Reale quickly grabbed SLAYER drummer David McClain and bassist Don Van Stavern. All they needed now was a vocalist. After a few months they finally chose SLAYER vocalist Steve Cooper. He even ended up winning out over Neil Turbin. By Cooper's addition, SLAYER is now once again reborn.

According to David McClain, their sound will be a combination of Mark Reale's new heavier songwriting and the sound established on SLAYER's unreleased "Go For The Throat" LP. For the priviliged few of you who have a bootleg copy of S.A.SLAYER's masterpiece, you will know what I'm talking about. With the right break, NARITA could become as big as RIOT once was.

MOX NIX

Pic Mark Cameron

(L to R)Bruce Tousineaux(guitars), Joe Vernagallo(drums), John Duff(vocals and guitars), Robert Fernandez(bass)

Of all the bands featured in this article, this Houston area band are probably the best songwriters of the bunch. This four-piece band has been playing continuously for 2½ years; at first as a five-piece with a frontman. But now with the release of a very impressive 4-song demo, they moved guitarist John Duff into the dual role of guitarist and vocalist.

The band list Y & T as one of their influences and it is felt in their songwriting. Songs like "Steal The Show" and "Ready Or Not" are reminiscent of Y & T in their "Earthshaker" days, whereas the cut "Never Again" brings in the speed riffs and shows that they can play as fast as the best of them. Perhaps the most interesting cut on their demo is the very AMERICADE-ish "Scream For Mercy" with its crunchy, wall-of-guitar sound. "Never Again" and "Scream For Mercy" were both heavily requested cuts on Houston's sadly missed Heavy Metal show on KLOL.

MOX NIX is a young band that is heading in the right direction. All they need is a little more experience. To contact the band or obtain their demo for $5.00, write to: MOX NIX,P.O.Box 87, Pasadena TX 77501-0087, USA.

CRUCIAL SURGE

Pic Mark Cameron

(Pictured from bottom clockwise) Gene Bartholomew(bass), Joey Gamino(guitar), Jack Mize (guitar), Jimmy Anders(drums), Andy Schuman (vocals).

Hold it, stop the presses! Honest to God as I was in the middle of writing this article, I received a phone call from bassist Gene Bartholomew saying that they are changing the name of their band to CRUCIAL SURGE from BATALLION. Seems that a, quote "Pamping Band" from New York also go by the name of BATALLION and has been getting a lot of exposure. Since CRUCIAL SURGE is a newcomer to the Houston metal scene they thought they would change while it would do the least harm. A good idea, I'd say.

As a unit they may be newcomers, but as individuals they are veterans of the musical wars. The two guitarist, Mize and Gamino came from KRIMSON KROSS (featured in MF 8) and Bartholomew, Anders and Schuman have all been involved in hard core bands in Houston during the past few years. This combination gives them a hard core flavour due to Schuman's vocals, but the songwriting and leads lean more towards thrash.

At the moment they have a three song demo available with the cuts "Isolation", "Batallion" and "No Sign Of Death". For more info, write to CRUCIAL SURGE at:- 6300 Westpark Suite 210, Houston, Tx 77057, USA.

ENGLISH DOGS

TEN ALBUMS TO BE WON

This issue we have ten autographed copies of the new ENGLISH DOGS album "Forward Into Battle" up for grabs, kindly donated by Rot Records. All you have to do is answer the following three questions:-

1) At which studio was "To The Ends Of The Earth recorded?
2) In the early days the ENGLISH DOGS toured with two of Britain's most popular punk bands... name one of them?
3) What is the song "Ambassador Of Fear" about?

Send your entries to "ENGLISH DOGS" METAL FORCES Competition No. 3, Rot Records, 39 Bolsover Street, Mansfield, Notts NG18 2PS, ENGLAND. Closing date for entries is 14th October 1985 and the albums will go to the first ten correct entries out of the hat on that date. Results will be printed in MF 15.

ARTILLERY

ARMED AND READY

KEN ANTHONY Talks To Guitarist Michael Stytzer

ARTILLERY are the latest in the new breed of Danish metal bands to secure a recording deal, and while King Diamond is refueling his ammo following the passing of MERCYFUL FATE the band are undoubtably the heaviest band in Denmark at this present time, and enjoying much deserved exposure on the underground metal scene.

Many METAL FORCES readers will of course already be familiar with ARTILLERY from their couple of appearances in our Demo-lition feature, but I first asked guitarist Michael Stytzer for a breakdown on the bands formation and line-up changes to date? "ARTILLERY was originally formed in September 1982. Carsten Nielsen our drummer met guitarist Jorgen Sandau and started playing just for fun with three other guys. They were later replaced with Morten Stytzer on bass, a singer (Per Onink - now with RIGOR MORTIS) and myself on guitar.

"We worked with this line-up for about six months and recorded our first demo (reviewed in MF 3). Then in February '84 we got a new singer, Carsten Lohmann, and recorded two demotapes "Shellshock" (MF 5) and "Deeds Of Darkness". Finally in April this year we got our present singer, Flemming Ronsdorf, and recorded our latest demo "Fear Of Tomorrow", which was produced by EVIL drummer Freddie Wolf."

How have the demo's been selling? "'Shellshock' has sold about 600 copies and "Deeds Of Darkness" around 550 which we're pleased about."

What do you call your style of metal, you seem to have avoided the black metal image so far? "Our style is doom/power/thrash metal, but some have called it avant-garde thrash. By black metal, if you mean satanism then it's definately not us; we are playing more on aggressive feelings."

Who then are you mainly influenced by? "Among others SLAYER, EXODUS, METALLICA and a little bit by TROUBLE."

You have changed your singer three times now, are you totally satisfied with the new line-up? "That's true, but we've had problems in finding the right vocalist. Our first singer couldn't sing, and Carsten Lohmann just didn't fit in the band. But we are very satisfied with Flemming."

ARTILLERY have had problems getting gigs in Denmark and you've been banned from some venues. Do you think it's because you are too heavy? "Yes, we have been told many times that they don't dare let us play because of our hard driving thrash metal style. Unfortunately there was some violence at our first concert in Copenhagen which was stopped by the Police, so this hasn't given us a very good reputation."

In May you supported SLAYER in Copenhagen, how did that gig go? "It was our greatest experience so far, the audience gave us a really good response. SLAYER were great too and they treated us really well. It was a great concert!"

Tell us about the interest you've received from record companies? "Well New Renaissance Records from the USA will be releasing a couple of our numbers on two of their forthcoming compilation albums. "Hey Woman" will be on "Metal Speed, Metal Hell" and "Deeds Of Darkness" is included on "Metal Magic".

"Black Dragon Records from France and Mausoleum have also shown a very big interest in us. But we've decided to sign to Neat Records as we feel that this is the best deal. Our debut album will be released later this year and it will be entitled "The Baptism Of Fire"."

Have you anything else to add? "Yes, a big thank-you to our supporters and all the underground metal magazines. Thrash Till Death!"

There can be no doubt that ARTILLERY are making their mark on the metal scene and I personally wish the band good luck in the future. Any thrashers out there who would like to get in touch with the band should write to: ARTILLERY c/o John Kluge, Charlottegardsvej 139, 2640 Hedehusene, DENMARK.

GREATNESS WITH A CAPITAL G

DAVE REYNOLDS (At Last) Interviews GREGG GIUFFRIA

It all started with an idle remark made to NIGHT RANGER's Jeff Watson. Turns out that Jeff is a good friend of Gregg's and gave me a number to call, which I promptly did and, with the greatly appreciated help of Karmen Beck and (especially)Phyllis Chotin I wound up calling the Giuffria residence and spoke to the one and only.

I know this sounds stupid, but talking to Gregg was a somewhat memorable moment in my journalistic career; the point to which I'd been working up to will all those references and articles about the real 'Hottest band in the world' in these pages. Of course we are all aware that Gregg is currently enjoying hit album and singles success. When we spoke GIUFFRIA (the band) were only days away from embarking on a tour of Japan, the first time Gregg had played in the land of the rising sun since ANGEL's first and last visit in 1977. "Yeah we're going this weekend for two weeks. We're really looking forward to it. I hope I can ignite the fire in all the old ANGEL fans over there again."

The success of your album and especially the singles must've come as a nice surprise? "Well I knew it was good in the studio but I never expected Top 10 or Top 20 success. It feels real good and it's exciting when you play a hit single live and get ecstatic response from the audience, which is something I never experienced with ANGEL. ANGEL's show was really dramatic and theatrical. I find GIUFFRIA's live show to be just that little bit more exciting."

It must seem ironic that you've acheived all this with your first album when ANGEL had six albums and no Top 40 hits? "Yes it is - it just goes to show how different the two bandsare. ANGEL was a band with five guys with five egos, and we're talking quite enlarged egos! There was always a five way attitude all the time which ended up with watered down product. With GIUFFRIA I have more control of what the band does and I feel we're making more of a statement."

Did you <u>really</u> have the intention of reviving the name again? " I really did think about it a lot. I thought of the name for that band and liked it a great deal. I wanted the dream to come true because I still had a lot of animosity that ANGEL didn't go over the first time." (Creem accused them of wasting all of Casablanca's KISS profits "with the cost of their elaborate stage sets and haircuts"!!)

So the name became GIUFFRIA which delayed the albums release for a while. Actually I don't think we'll ever know what actually did make Gregg revert to his surname for the band's name. In La Hellrazin' one's interview with Frank Dimino (where's the tapes man?!) in MF10 it was stated that Punky, Frank and Barry - ex-ANGEL's one and all got together and told Gregg to drop the idea of using the ANGEL name, but Gregg told me he hasn't seen or spoken with them for a long time, in Frank's case 1980 and Punky's 1983. He asked <u>me</u> what they were up to!

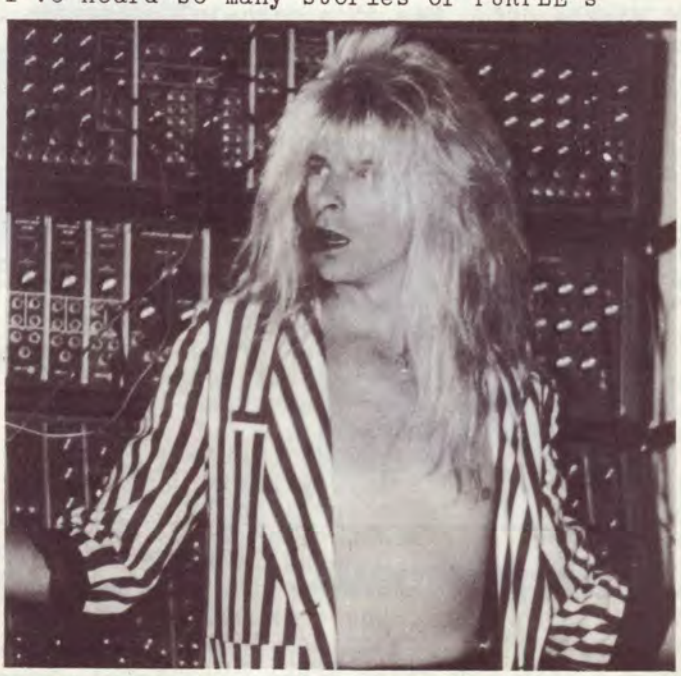
"I haven't seen or heard from Punky since 1983 when I decided it was best that I concentrated on a solo career. As far as Frank is concerned he's had a real bad attitude for quite a while. Frank was the last member of ANGEL I recruited and his outlook gets kinda distorted sometimes."

We all know what Frank is up to but Punky's whereabouts are a mystery. I did track him down to his brother's place back in Maryland but he's since disappeared, leaving Timmy Meadows with a very large telephone bill.

Anyway GIUFFRIA's first bout of touring was as support to the revived DEEP PURPLE and it's no secret that the two outfits just didn't see eye to middle age spread. I've heard so many stories of PURPLE's

Pic Robert Virostko

CRAIG GOLDY and DAVID GLEN EISLEY



Pic Robert Virostko

GREGG GIUFFRIA

treatment towards Gregg and the boys it's untrue! How did Gregg feel about the treatment given by D.P.? "I guess senility sets in when you get that old! They're real mean to people with more youthfulness and energy. Ritchie Blackmore should grow up and stop behaving like a child. He doesn't hold a candle to guitar players of today like Eddie Van Halen or even my guitarist, Craig Goldy. I think it's kind of like The Turtle and The Hare where the hare thinks he can win and falls asleep underneath a tree y'now?"

What do you think of the comparisons GIUFFRIA had been getting to JOURNEY? "The irony of that is I don't even own one JOURNEY album. How do you compare groups? Most people compare groups to try and describe them better. Maybe the "Call To The Heart" single was a little JOURNEYish sounding to a lot of people but I find JOURNEY a little too mushy for my likeing!" (What?! - ED) Actually I think it was vocalist David Glen Eisley (ex-SABU, so Kelvin tells me) more than anything that brought about the comparison.

Have you ever thought of recording an album purely of keyboard/synthesized music a la Jean-Michel Jarre? "Yes I have. I've actually got some soundtracks for a couple of motion pictures lined-up to do so you'll probably be seeing something like that very soon." (GIUFFRIA, the band, has 3 excellent tracks on the 'GOTCHA' movie soundtrack).

Are you aware of all the GG imitators that are suddenly appearing, such as Garri Brandon (ex-WHITE SISTER), Vince Gilbert (JAG WIRE) and Al Garay (SINFUL)? "Yes there's been an onslaught of them lately! I've noticed many people copying my set-up but I didn't realize it for a while".

Does it please you that ANGEL obviously had some musical influence on people? "I'd be a real fool to say no! It is kinda nice to know you've influence people". And at least they were doing something right even if record sales were rather lacking.

Was the first ANGEL album your first vinyl outing? "No, there was a lot of low-key stuff on various things in the years before (nothing he'd admit to unfortunatly! -DR) but "Angel" was the first major release I recorded."

The Bux album release must've pissed Punky and Mickie off. Was it a cash-in? "Yes it was, they left off a lot of Punky's guitar on that album too" Neither Punky nor Mickie are on the album cover either - something that was brought to my attention by America's number one ANGEL fan. Take a bow, Rik Fox of SIN!

I understand Mickie Jones' replacement, Felix Robinson, was brought in really quickly in time for an impending tour? "Yeah after Mickie left because he was so inadequate in everything, we were reaching a point where we needed a bass player pretty quickly, so a friend and I hired a jet and flew up to Santa Barbara to go check out some bands. Felix was playing in one of those bands, I can't remember the name....."

Was it THE WORD? "Yeah, that's it. How did you know that?! Anyway Felix was really good so he came in. Actually he's a really strange sort of character, he knows every joke in the world. Give him a subject and he'll tell you a joke about it. Also he knows almost every song ever written and he'll play it to you on any instrument! I haven't seen him since ANGEL split, what's he up to?"

Well he was in MF faves WHITE LION for about two weeks! Do you still see Mickie? "I don't really talk to Mickie, I really haven't had much to do with him since he left ANGEL."

Is the W.A.S.P drummer Steve Riley the one and the same guy who was in EMPIRE, the band Mickie formed after getting fired from ANGEL? "Yeah I think it is. Have you spoken to "The Nose" about this? I'm sure he'll be embarassed." Steve, I have photographic proof.

Why did ANGEL drop the "Bad Publicity" concept for what evolved into the "Sinful" album and why the sudden change from epic pomp rock to an obviously BEATLES influenced pop-metal direction in 1977?

"The decision to change the "Bad Publicity" cover was Casablanca's Neil Bogart's. He felt we shouldn't be shown in a negative "Bad Boy" way on the cover (the inner sleeve remained the same). We were always locked into that "Pretty Boy" look by Casablanca. However, I think, and I hope you don't think I'm being really pretentious by saying this, but I feel ANGEL was about five years ahead of its time; the kind of band MTV would really go for if we were starting out today."

"The direction change was also to do with the record company. Casablanca was always telling us what to do and in desperation we started writing this pop-metal stuff, or what we thought was pop-metal, and that was BEATLES influenced."

What sort of direction would you say you're going in now with GIUFFRIA? "I like to call it Majestic Rock. We're into having a real good time too and it's powerful stuff also."

Majestic Rock is an apt description for music made by the King Of The Keyboards, but let us not forget the royal contributions made by the rest of the band. The rhythm section of Alan Krigger and Chuck Wright pound out the backbone of the GIUFFRIA sound. Guitarist Craig Goldy cuts the metal edge into GIUFFRIA's music and proves that he's more than a foil for Gregg's space-age frills. Then there's David Glenn Eisley, an enigmatic frontman if ever there was one and the son of "Hawaiian Eye" actor Anthony Eisley if you didn't know (it's an old American Sixties TV show). GIUFFRIA as a band both live and on record have class and, yes, Majesty. Don't tear them down, oh no!

So when can us European GIUFFRIA fans expect to see the second album and a tour of Europe? (Something ANGEL never managed). "Well we'll be starting pre-production on the second album when we get back from Japan, and we'll start recording at the end of August, with hopefully a November release. It's going to be different to the debut but in the same vein although much more up-tempo. I hope to set up a European tour shortly before or after the album comes out."

Believe me Fortune seekers, I can't wait for that. GIUFFRIA is every bit as good musically as ANGEL and as a live band are H.O.T. Now all it needs Gregg mate, is a meeting to chat about how the world's gonna be put under extreme pressure by the mighty G-force, right?!

FOOTNOTE: Bassist Chuck Wright has recently left GIUFFRIA to join QUIET RIOT as a replacement for Rudy Sarzo. A spokesman for GIUFFRIA said "We haven't found a new bass player yet but this time we will make sure it's someone who can play!"

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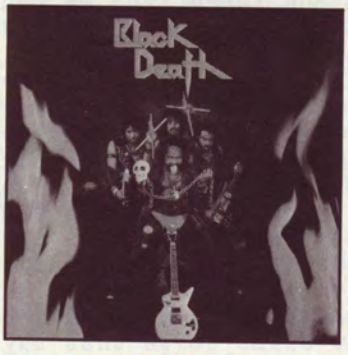

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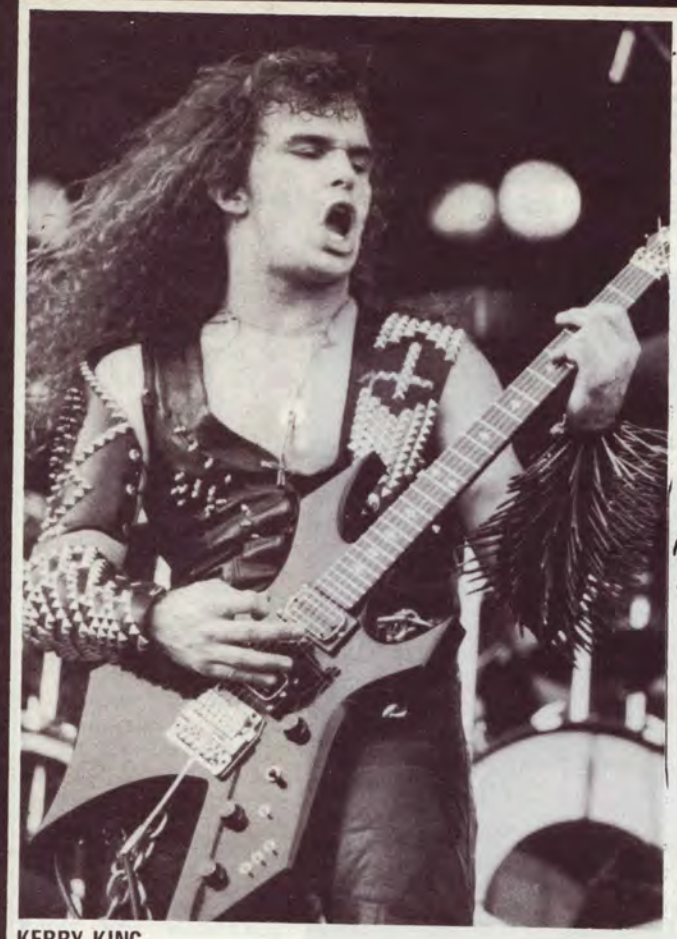

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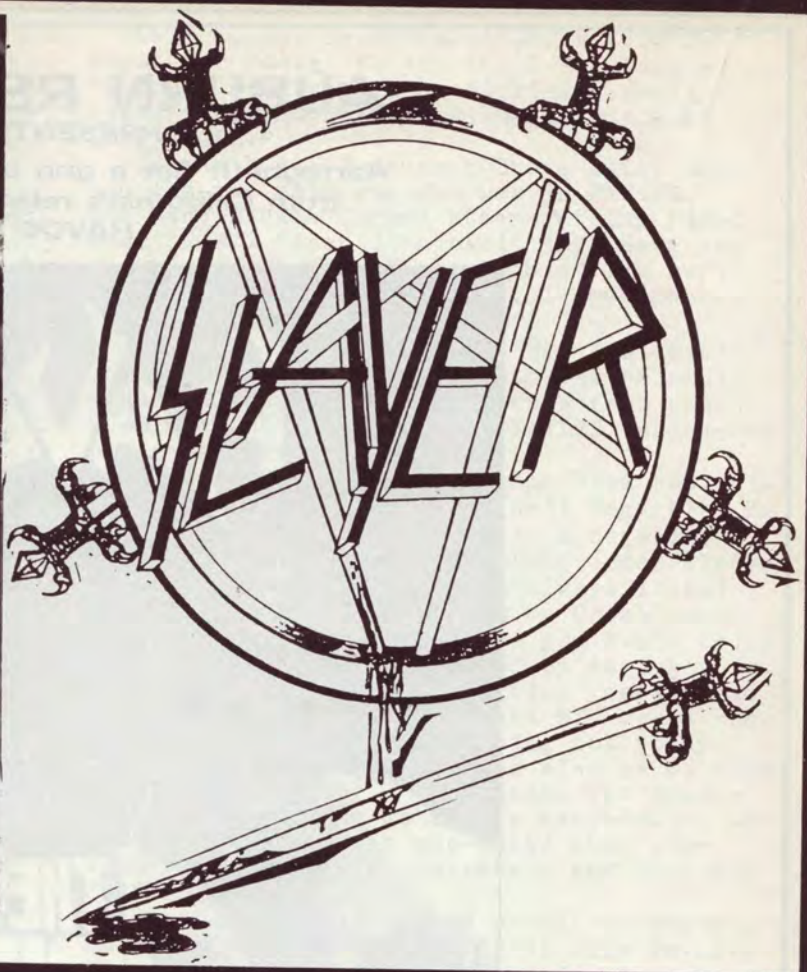


THE WRECKING CREW

A Possessed DAVE CONSTABLE Talks To The Starving Boys From Hell

I don't think Kelv Hellrazer would have been at the Marquee that night even if I'd offered to pay his phone bill as an incentive. As glam/wimp bands go SLAYER score about 10 out of three million, so who better than to interview them than me - although most of you might think I'm wimp/glam, I ain't.

Trying to drag these guys away from the smallest lig ever ie: post soundcheck in the Marquee dressing room was one thing (that I did by offering a private audience in Shades - "Wow man, freebies!" Sorry to disappoint guys) but getting coherent answers to admitadely dim questions was another. So minus Kerry King we trundled into heaven and had what can best be described as a discussion with random abuse.

I firstly asked for a reaction to Europe and the fans they've come across?

"It's been great and better than we'd expected, we'll definately be back."

With things going so well for you here do you think the rumoured VENOM/SLAYER tour of Europe would have been a good idea?

"Yeah, but it was only a rumour, we did the thing in the States which went great but it was never really on here."

It seems to me that maybe VENOM have peaked in popularity and they cannot go any further whilst you are still on the way up.

"There's no competition between us and VENOM or anyone else. We don't want to be Black Metal gods or anything stupid like that."

But with "Possessed and "Hell Awaits" coming out so close together I mean you both aim at the same market.

"In the States they released EXODUS and MEGADETH at the same time as us. We'd prefer them to have been split up."

What do you attribute the success of "Hell Awaits" to?

"Well people really wondered whether we could do another "Show No Mercy" and when they brought "Hell Awaits" they found we've just got faster - y'know - no wimping out."

Do you aspire to achieve any great success - is fame a motivation?

"It would be nice to be in the majors - without changing of course. Wait until our next album. We're trying obviously for a major deal."

What's the situation like with Metal Blade now?

"We can do whatever we want, we are not bound to a record label - we're not pressured - one record at a time."

Do you see a comparison between you and METALLICA? I mean you're both from the same part of the world and were the cult thrash bands - what do you think of METALLICA changing to say get the major deal?

"Well yeah we've a lot in common, but METALLICA didn't change just to get a major deal - they still play heavy. Lars said in an interview ages ago I think "speed is great, but it doesn't put food on your table". As for us, well we can starve I suppose.

"I think we are going about it in a slow progressive manner - we still get off on what we're doing. If we get picked up, great - if not, then we keep on trying."

DAVE LOMBARDO

JEFF HANNEMAN

From all reports (and from what I've seen on a video at Brian Slagel's house) SLAYER are just totally high energy but you get that energy back from the crowd.

"That's great, I mean usually the crowd goes wild and it's a real big buzz. Our sound and lighting guys in Europe couldn't believe what was going on you know."

Do you feel that energy can be dangerous?

"Yes and no. If you get those who abuse it it's bad - the other night someone got stabbed before we went on but nothing like that usually happens, of course it's just energy and enjoyment all the way. In fact they guy who was stabbed outside the show came back to see it after he'd been to hospital".

At this point we were rudely interupted by a phone call from someonw who wanted to speak with somebody with Aids! After deleting the called we briefly talked about the bands who feed off SLAYER and METALLICA etc.

"Well we will see who comes out best in the end - if you're gonna be the best you'd better be fucking good. We've just done some German dates with DESTRUCTION and they are cool guys - they got drunk and partyed with us".

What's your opinion of the current metal scene back home in LA, is it still posers paradise?

"Yeah I suppose so, but we can draw a thousand people back home, kids wearing denim and leather, so I think maybe things are changing.

"It seems as though more people are getting into metal generally. You know we've been getting a lot of punks at our gigs in Europe, I hope we get a lot of the same type of kids here, it'll be wild."
(Incidentally there were and it was!)

"So what's up these people's butts at Kerrang."

You like Kerrang?

"Oh yeah we're best of friends, how come they like us all of a sudden - whose the guy who likes METALLICA - Xavier Russell, he's OK. What about that other guy Malcome Dome, one of my friends saw him and said he was pretty weird, but how come he likes us now?"

Getting trendy maybe?

"Yeah, they did it with VENOM, you know, first they hated them then they said these guys are so bad we gotta like 'em. They've jumped on the bandwagon now."

It must be pretty difficult getting press in the States though?

"We get in the fanzines and your mag and things, we even had a thing in Hit Parader recently - that was funny."

Do you know the sales figures on "Hell Awaits"?

"No-one tells us anyting - I know we sold out two pressings in the first month it was out - that's 40,000. But we don't know the situation in Europe".

What about the bootleg album that's out?

"You mean "Fucking Slayer" or something, I think that's from Berkeley and pretty good quality."

Where do I get one?

"It's in Germany and around there I think".

Well that's about it except for the abuse that was dished out to everyone from Kerrang to Kerry King - on with the show.

So SLAYER hit the Marquee stage - played at 10,000 mph for under an hour and left everybody present feeling they'd experienced something a bit special - the bruises prove it. Why even Xavier (Whose Baby? potential) Russell was forced to reviews of rave proportions - "I was thrashing down the front" - etc. (You weren't within twenty yards of me -Ed!)

SLAYER will gain in popularity - they're one of the best bands I've ever seen, but they're not going to be superstars and somehow I think they know that but as entertainers they've got little competition - the No. 1 cult band ever?

METAL ON VINYL

RAZOR
Evil Invaders
(Viper Records)

10

This is RAZOR's third release in little over a year and completes the bands progression through speed metal territory as the Canadian quartet go the whole hog and produce an album of total unrelentless thrash.

Apart from maybe "Iron Hammer", where there are still touches of the bands early MOTORHEAD influences, "Evil Invaders" has SLAYER stamped all over it. But RAZOR should not be dismissed as mere copyists as they still have a lot to offer in their own right.

As an instrumental you may think the opening of "Nowhere Fast" lacks a guitar solo of any note, but this machine gun attack is merely setting the pace for the intense onslaught that you're about to behold.

"Legacy Of Doom" and the superb "Speed Merchants" are the natural thrash successors to the bands classic "Take This Torch", while Dave Carlo shows his true metal on the likes of "Instant Death" and the title track as he grinds his axe around the frantic rhythm laid down by bassist Mike Campagnolo and drummer M-Bro. Not forgetting the distinctive vocal style of Sheepdog.

"Cross Me Fool", "Cut Throat", "Tortured Skull"... it's all lethal stuff, but perhaps none more so than the ultimate "Thrashdance" which is destined to become an underground metal anthem.

Simply"Evil Invaders" is one of THE classic thrash metal albums. Need I say more!

BERNARD DOE

CASTLE BLAK
Babes In Toyland
(T.O.M. Records)

9

I was first informed about this lot by Record Exchanges Bill Burkhard, who is also the bands personal manager. Bill gave me a tape a couple of months back and I haven't looked back since. This is 1985's definative glam rock LP. Forget CRUE and RATT; that's all over produced garbage in comparison.

I have yet to see a picture of this lot but I was told by Bill that guitarist/vocalist/keyboardist Regent St. Claire is supposed to be severely OTT in the image stakes; kind of San Francisco's answer to KERRY DOLL. On the whole this LP reminds of a glam rock version of RIOT. Opener "Ten High" is a live track and moves along at a frantic pace but has that certain edge that makes it a cut above the rest. "Babes In Toyland" borders on pomp territory and would make an excellent single cut. The slow and laid backness of "Crazy" is also a pleasure on the lugholes especially the pilot type voice effects in the middle.

Side two is also hot, the excitement doesn't drop once. The cock-strutin' power of "Ready, Willing And Able" reminds me of the sorely missed GIRL. However the real icing on the cake is saved for the last cut -"Blak Diamond" - a blistering cover version of the KISS classic. I've never been a fan of the very early KISS cuts and I especially think the first KISS LP sucks. I do appreciate that "Diamond" is a classic number and CASTLE BLAK put new fire into the old chestnut. I'm sure Simmons and Co would be interested to hear this version. A menacing debut and soon to be released in the UK by HM/FM Records.

KELV HELLRAZER

AVENGER
Killer Elite
(Neat 1026)

10

Despite again being plagued by a none too clever production that doesn't encourage critical acclaim for a start, AVENGER have surpassed last year's "Blood Sports" album. I'll say it out loud. "Killer Elite" pisses all over "Blood Sports" and a great many other Neat albums. New boy Greg Reiter is a real asset to AVENGER and plugs a big hole that has previously been missing, especially live. The backbone of Mick Moore on bass and Gary Young on drums is one of the tightest on the UK scene and vocalist Ian Swift puts in a vintage performance on his well thought out lyrics.

"Killer Elite" goes for the throat and, with the exception of maybe one track, is a no-compromise heavy metal album. F.O.A.D. all wimps who can't appreciate a heavy metal album when they hear one. Run your bloody little fingers over assaulting blockbusters like "Revenge Attack!" or "Run For Your Life". Laugh yourself psycho with a trip to "The Sawmill" and shit your pants in terror at a "Brand of Torture" where Reiter stamps 'Americana Classico Metal' all the way through it. It'll leave you struggling for breath then kill you with a barrage of mighty big dog bites with "Steel On Steel". O.T.T. review? I don't give a shit I'm having one helluva headbangin' fuckin' time! "Fight For The Right" - Heaven!, "Under The Hammer" - I'm on the floor!, "Dangerous Games" - I see those men in white coats comin'! Anything else I've forgotton to say about this record, well "Tough Titties". BUY!

DAVE REYNOLDS

NIGHTMARE
Power Of The Universe
(Ebony Records)

7

NIGHTMARE's follow-up to "Waiting For The Twilight" sees the band with a new vocalist in Jean Marie Boix whose a noticable improvement on his predecessor Christophe Houpert.

Musically this French quintet are far from the Power Metal band that Ebony have been promoting them as, well not in the EXCITER/ANTHRAX/METALLICA sense anyway. No, NIGHTMARE play the kind of heavy crunching metal that have made labelmates GRIM REAPER and ex-Ebony protiges SAVAGE so popular. In fact the opening number "Running For The Deal" reminds me a lot of the REAPER's "D.O.A.".

"Diamond Crown", "Let's Go" and "Prowler In The Night" are equally as impressive with the remaining tracks qualifying as listenable though lacking any real excitement and the ballad "Invisible World" is plain boring. To be honest the album does tend to get a little predictable as it goes on, and in future I'd like to see a touch more variation to maintain the listeners interest.

BERNARD DOE

VOW WOW

Cyclone
(Eastworld Records)

9

Amongst the shouts of "Yngwie and Joshua are gods" you never hear any mention of a guy named Kyoji Yamamoto. Now I know a lot of people rate Kyoji as a guitar player but you never hear anybody raving about him. It sickens me to see how popular LOUDNESS are getting when VOW WOW are not really gaining recognition at all.

Onto "Cyclone". The sound and style hasn't really changed at all from the one used on the "Beat Of Metal Motion" LP. Kyoji is still achieving amazing feats on his axe, whilst vocalist Kenki Hitomi's English is improving all the time. From the action packed "Hurricane" to the chant rock of "Hell-Raisers Wanted" (obviously dedicated to me) you get a no nonsense high class rock LP that pulls all the punches. If this one doesn't crack it for the boys, then I'm gonna become a monk or start buying Kerrud again (become a monk there's less ego involved....Ed). Oh well I'm off to read my VOW WOW newsletter, pity I don't understand Japanese.

KELV HELLRAZER

S.O.D.

Speak English Or Die
(Megaforce Records)

9

STORMTROOPERS OF DEATH, otherwise known as S.O.D., is the project that features ANTHRAX's Scott Ian (guitars) and Charlie Benante (drums) together with THE PSYCHO's vocalist Billy "Mosh" Milano and NUCLEAR ASSAULT/ex-ANTHRAX bassist Dan Lilker. Basically the project was put together with the intention of being the ultimate cross between speed metal and hardcore punk; with this album they've pretty much succeeded.

"Speak English Or Die" contains twenty one tracks or so and whilst a lot of metal fans will hate and fail to see the point of two second wonders like "Anti-Procrastination Song" and "Hey Gordy", they will no doubt foam at the mouth to the thrash attacks of "Pussy Whipped", "Fist Banging Mania", "Sargent 'D'And The S.O.D." and the excellent "Kill Yourself", which is like SLAYER and one step beyond. There's also touches of METALLICA and ANTHRAX (obviously) riffs dotted here and there, but noticeably on "Freddy Kreuger" and the intro to "Pre-Menstrual Princess Blues".

S.O.D. also show a humourous and somewhat sick side to their music on the likes of "What's That Noise", "Diamond And Rust" and the ultra bad taste of "The Ballad Of Jimi Hendrix", which is a four second blur that ends with the not so immortal lyrics of - "Your Dead"!

Just how serious S.O.D. are as an ongoing project remains to be seen, but for entertainment value, depending on your tastes, "Speak English Or Die" is a worthy purchase."

BERNARD DOE

VARIOUS ARTISTS

Metal Madness Volume One
(New Renaissance)

7

At last there's vinyl proof that New Renaissance do exist and aren't just the figment of some Californian demo collector's imagination.

"Metal Madness" follows a lead set by Brian Slagel's ever improving Metal Massacre series and, like 'Massacre', there are good, bad and average tracks.

Let's be nasty and start with the bad first! MAX, from Seattle dabble in serious late sixties/early seventies sounding SABBATH stuff. It bored me shitless. HELLION (surprisingly) also contribute a horrible piece of work. "Fire" was left off the mini-LP they released and it's easy to see why. Uninspiring. Still, at least it doesn't sound like DIO! HIGH RISK, complete with female bassist, could just be one of thousands of bands plucked out of the garage and put in the studio. 'Nuff said.

So to the average acts. Holland's SCARLET ANGEL display a good sense of metallic musicianship, especially in the atmospheric guitar sound, but suffer from poor vocals. VICE, featured in MF8's 'Demo-lition' could be better with a more crunchy production. KNIGHTMARE II, fronted by The Rod are apparantly influenced by AC/DC but I really couldn't detect anything Australian like in "Promise Land". Finally, PROPHET, another 'Demo-lition' band produce the very interesting "Black Raven", but it's spoilt by the totally useless intro. The band, not be be confused with Kelv's pomp-rock faves of the same name, have since split and Eric and Todd Schaffer, the bands bassist and drummer have formed SYNBAD with an LP due soon on New Renaissance.

Now here are the goodies! SHOK PARIS, ASSASSIN and SIXTY-NINE. SHOK PARIS are the most well known of the three, having as they do a tasty album out on Auburn Records. "Streets Of Pleasure" is great, pounding metal featuring interesting vocals from Vic Hix and an ace PRIESTish guitar sound. A feature is definately in order here. We'll have to feature San Diego's ASSASSIN too because "Treason" is terrific! Crunchy, well produced metal from a band sure to go places. SIXTY-NINE meanwhile boast a brilliant drummer and an original sound. Watch out for 'em too.

With volume one proving to be not bad at all I look forward to the next one with anticipation.

DAVE REYNOLDS

KREATOR

Endless Pain
(Noise N0025)

8

Germany's death metal assault continues. When will it end? "Never" I hear you plead.

KREATOR - who some may remember as TORMENTOR with their "End Of The World" demo-are far from the best German thrashers I've heard but they're certainly one of the heaviest.

SLAYER/SODOM/EXODUS/VENOM/CELTIC FROST, the comparisons are all there as the band machine gun their way through such pile drivers as "Total Death", "Dying Victims", "Tormentor", "Flag Of Fate" and the total blur of "Bonebreaker". A touch of doom creeps in during "War Cry" but it's generally all frantic stuff recommended to all legions of death.

BERNARD DOE

URGENT

Cast The First Stone
(Manhattan Records)

8

Check out Constable's playlist in MF - he's always been an AOR freak at heart. URGENT are apparently his latest raving and I can't really argue. I don't quite put 'em in the WHITE SISTER league but then who is in their league. No, this is very keyboard orientated rock pushing at the realms of RPM/RED RIDER modern rock syndrome but hell, they're good at it.

KELV HELLRAZER

FAST FORWARD
Living In Fiction
(Island Records)

Highly catchy A.O.R. from Ian Lloyd (ex-STORIES). Joining Ian on the LP include the likes of Jimmy Lowell(SPIDER/SHANGHAI), Jim Vallance (PRISM/BRYAN ADAMS), Beau Hill (AIRBORNE) with the addition of Lou Gramm and Mick Jones from FOREIGNER.

Combined you get a quirky LP in much the same style as say LOVERBOY. Most tracks being written by BRYAN ADAMS with the odd ex-TORONTO member helping out; in fact "You're A Mystery To Me" is a TORONTO cover version; how could this LP fail? Essential to an A.O.R. fans collection.

KELV HELLRAZER

ANGELWITCH
Screamin' N' Bleedin'
(Killerwatt)

The No. 1 cult underground metal band return (albeit with only one original member - Kevin Heybourne) with their first vinyl release since the original split some four years ago.

Apart from maybe the song "Angelwitch" the band were never really renowned for producing classic metal tracks, just consistent good material, and the same can be said about "Screamin' N' Bleedin'".

The album opens with the heavy driving metal of "Whose To Blame" which is probably the best track.

"Evil Games" is the old BLIND FURY (Taylor/Heybourne line-up) song with a school choir brought in for added effect.

The two ballads "Afraid Of The Dark" and the doomy "Waltz The Night" do very little for me, both being too long and mundane. I much prefer the straight ahead uptempoed charge of "Reawakening" and the title track.

A few of the numbers feature a sprinkling of keyboard fills (although no credit is given on the album sleeve), especially on "Goodbye" where the sound leans more towards US influenced HR complete with harmony vocals. Actually this and "Fatal Kiss" which is in a similar vein, work out quite well although I would hate to think that this was a direction that ANGELWITCH would take too seriously.

Overall the new ANGELWITCH are slightly more lightweight than past achievements, and how well that will be accepted by their loyal following remains to be seen, but "Screamin' N' Bleedin'" proves that the band still have a lot to offer and is well worth checking out.

BERNARD DOE

XERON
Does Anybody Hear?
(Oronsay Records)

The first 3 tracks on this mini-LP are killers: XERON live and breathe commercial rock'n'roll. XERON are a concoction of QUEENSRYCHE riffs with JOURNEY hooklines. Set your lugholes onto the brutal melody of the opening cut "Visions Of The Past" and you can tell these guys mean business. Also check out "Breathless", where Trevor Jay cuts some mean axe-waxing and what about vocalist Larry Leon - Bob Hawthorn would shake in his boots if he heard this guys similarity to Steve Perry. But unlike a lot of bands with these type of vocalists Larry Leon adds his own magical touch. Amongst a barrage of releases; XERON stands out and is definately worth investing in.

KELV HELLRAZER

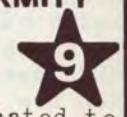
Y&T
Open Fire
(A & M Records)

I remember, quite clearly discovering the first YESTERDAY AND TODAY album. It was back in 1976 while flicking through the new import releases down in the basement of the old Virgin record store in New Oxford Street. In those days Schenker was the only axe hero with a Flying V and just the sight of Dave Meneketti weilding his V around like a man possessed on the back sleeve was enough to warrant the albums purchase. From that moment YESTERDAY AND TODAY became my favourite band and Meneketti an axe hero. Of course for me, like many original Y&T fans, it all gradually turned sour as the band finally succumbed to commerciality and wimped out in a big way.

"Open Fire" is the bands first official live album and contains material ranging from the excellent "Forever", "Open Fire" and "I Believe In You" - one of THE classic metal ballads - to the total garbage of "Barroom Boogie", "Go For The Throat" and the pop metal of "Summertime Blues". The latter is a previously unreleased studio track. A somewhat strange inclusion on a live album. Still despite this, "Open Fire" will no doubt have something to offer for all Y and T fans, old and new.

BERNARD DOE

CORROSION OF CONFORMITY
Animosity
(Death Records)



This is on Death Records, the label dedicated to SLAYER's fave bands. This is D.O.D. (Doe orientated Death). Almost as legendary as ONSLAUGHT (sacrilege..Ed). These play amazingly well for punks and put a lot of supposedly true HMers to shame. Especially check out the SLAYER like "Consumed".

KELV HELLRAZER

44 MAGNUM
Actor
(Moon Records)

I still reckon to VOW WOW being the best thing to come out of Japan, but 44 MAGNUM are on the way up. The bands musicianship deletes most UK acts, in fact the songs are surprisingly LA sounding, couldn't be something to do with the fact that they recorded the LP over there could it? Very MOTLEY CRUE sounding, in fact guitarist Satoshi Hirose would reduce Mars to tears. My only moan is that Jap vocals mixed with bits of English sounds bloody ridiculous. Check out "Backstreet Delinquents" riff - total mayhem or what? Packaging is also worth a mention stickers, posters, cards and transfers. You can't blame them for trying can you?

KELV HELLRAZER

CHATEAUX
Highly Strung
(Ebony Records)

"Highly Strung" is CHATEAUX's third offering and sees the band carrying on where they left off with their much acclaimed "Firepower" album.

The likes of "Turn It On", "Through The Fire", the ultra heavy instrumentsl "Phalanx", and the fast paced title track all deliver the goods in menacing fashion. It's true the band sound a bit samey and predictable in a couple of places but despite this CHATEUX remain one of the finest exponents of this style of crunching heavy metal.

BERNARD DOE

EBONY RECORDS

"FIREPOWER" by Chateaux – EBON 18
"Undoubtedly an LP the Trio can be proud of"
Malcolm Dome – Kerrang!

"RITES OF CHAOS" by Demon eyes – EBON 19
"Without hesitation an excellent product"
Metal KO – Canada

"FULL FORCE" by the Sterling Cooke Force – EBON 20
"So straight forward, no messin' around just rock 'n' roll"
Hot Rockin, Denmark

"HUNTED" by Blade runner – EBON 21
"Blade Runner is the running Blade so keep your heads down!"
Metal Attack, France

"WAITIN' FOR THE TWILIGHT" by Nightmare – EBON 22
"One of '84's best Indie releases, if not the best"
Hot Rockin, Denmark

"BRINGER OF EVIL" by Syron Vanes – EBON 23
"Heavy sharp and edgy metal, the only way"
OKEJ – Sweden

"SACRED BLADE" by Samurai – EBON 24
"Samurai have achieved an excellent job"
Metal Hammer – Germany

"BACK ALLEY VICES" by Touched – EBON 28
"It's rough, ready 'n raw with plenty of play-it-fast madness – Kerrang!

"CONTRACT WITH HELL" Hammer – EBON 29
"Exalted an exalting . . . . . Enormous, a must"
Metal Attack, France

"POWER OF THE UNIVERSE" by Nightmare – EBON 30
"At last a French production of quality – it has been a long time"
Tympans – Belgium

"HIGHLY STRUNG" by Chateaux – EBON 31
Too new for reviews yet but take our word for it – a mammoth album!

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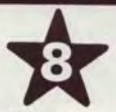
HAVOC

The Grip
(Auburn Records)



An interesting album this. Plenty of cliched riffing but very well executed and mixed with touches of originality in the song structures, it gives Californian quintet HAVOC a rather unique sound.

The first thing that grabs you about this album is its sheer heaviness especially on the fast paced title track. However the best tracksfor me are "Blazes" and "Thrasher" which is of course self-explanatory. Brilliant! But it's not all thrash; "Bullets Of Blood" for instance is a kinda weird combination of MAIDEN and TROUBLE whilst the strong riffing of "Screams" is very reminiscent of SAVATAGE.

New singer Dave Hughes generally puts in a fine performance throughout but his vocals do get a little nauseating on a couple of numbers - "Son Of Thunder" and "Hour Of The Dragon". But along with the remaining two numbers - "The Force Within" and the pacey instrumental "Chainsaw" - "The Grip" is a strong debut.

BERNARD DOE

LEE AARON

Call Of The Wild
(Attic/Roadrunner)

After seeing LEE AARON a couple of times recently, firstly with BON JOVI and then on a headlining gig of her own, I was convinced her third upcoming LP would be a total barnstormer. The six or so new songs in her live set were by far the best I'd heard her perform. So when "Call Of The Wild" arrived in Shades I immediately slapped it on the turntable and guess what? It sounds terrible. After careful checking of the equipment I can do nothing but conclude that the production is totally useless. The songs are there, every one a hard rock gem with some of the most infectious hooklines and choruses you're ever likely to hear this year. But Mr. Paul Gross (producer and destroyer) I have to say you must be totally deaf in order to virtually turn this into a complete wimp out.

Still, on to the material - you get eleven numbers on "Call Of The Wild" and most are of Al quality. Personal faves are "Beat 'Em Up" which would destroy PRIEST if I could hear any proper guitar; "Danger Zone" where Ms Aaron's vocals shine through the backing mush; "Live Of Fire", again powerful but so commercial, whilst "Rock Me All Over" (the first single) and "Hot To Be Rocked" are more reminicent of Lee's "Metal Queen" LP.

The potential killer on the album is "Barely Holding On" - the next single which has a more respectable production (courtesy of Bob Ezrin), and should with any push make the national charts. A great ballad, this proves Ms. Aaron is more than just a rocker.

Still, overall a great collection of songs even with the dodgy sound. Buy.

DAVE CONSTABLE

RUFFIANS

Ruffians
(Victory Records)

I was first introduced to RUFFIANS by Bill Burkard via a tape a couple of months back and right from the start it's clear that the bands best asset is vocalist Carl Albert. His performances on each number on this six-tracker are excellent; he has the perfect HM voice. Our Editor reckons RUFFIANS sound like WHITE SISTER without the keyboards and if you check out the riff to "Wastelands" then it sure sounds like "Straight From The Heart" from the WHITE SISTER LP.

The LP's finest cut "Fight For Your Life" is a real scorcher similar to BLACK LACE and definately worth a listen when next in your local record store. "Bad Boys Cut Loose" has a very TWISTED SISTERy feeling to it; especially the chanting chorus. The remaining cuts are much in the same vain; but not as shattering as "F.F.Y.L.". A full LP could be interesting.

KELV HELLRAZER

MARIONETTE

Blonde Secrets And Dark Bombshells
(Heavy Metal)

Like AUNT MAY, MARIONETTE owe more to the punk movement than to heavy metal. This album will only appeal to a small minority. I'm talking about the glam mutants or(maybe) gothic punks; the people who could appreciate the weird, rhythmic rock that was HANOI ROCKS' contribution to the world of music.

Fronted by PANDORA PEROXIDE creator; the enigmatic Ray "of many Zells" Zell, the four-piece barnstorm their cocky way through a selection of punk-metal stompers that bring images of LE ROCKS, THE SEX PISTOLS and nights of frenzied ligging at the long defunct Valley Of The Dolls club in London.

MARIONETTE are very much an acquired taste, but in a quite perverse way I quite like this album, even the cover of "Is That You?" written by Gerard McMahon and made famous by KISS on "Unmasked". This sounds better than both previous version. Very trashy boyz!

Elsewhere the highlights ('n' I'm not talking hair or tits kidz!) are the WRATHCHILD gone punk "Raise Hell" (chants of"RAYZELL" abound) the porno "Getting Sticky" and the funny "Staggerin' Back To You" which is pure cock-struttin' punk with piss-take middle section.

Complete trash rock but then again so are VAN HALEN in a different musical manner.

DAVE REYNOLDS

D.R.I.

Dealing With It
(Death Records)

Another Death Records release. Hilariously fucking brilliant is the best way to describe it. A twenty-four track scorcher; pure mayhem for ANTICHRIST clones, should sell millions, check out those thousand miles an hour bass lines - pass my dog collar. Possibly my favourite thrasher of all time.

KELV HELLRAZER

STRATTSON

Ouf Metal
(Devils Records)

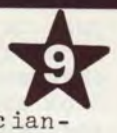
Tight riffing, plenty of aggression and a raw crunching production are the ingrediants for this fine debut from France's STRATTSON.

Despite a couple of flaws, namely "Le Bourreau" and the long and tedious "Tenebres", it's all promising stuff with stand out tracks being the semi-thrash metal of "Le Gladiateur De L'infini", the frantic MOTORHEAD like "Face A La Lune" and the METALLICA influenced "Le Blues". Thoroughly recommended for all power metallists who can live with the French vocals.

BERNARD DOE

BLACKLACE

Get It While It's Hot
(Mausoleum)



The quality of musicianship from the HM equivalent to soccers Bobby and Jackie Charlton(1966 and all that!) - Carlo and Anthony Fragnito together with Steve Werner is certainly something that's going to set the stadiums alight in years to come. And what can I say about the lovely Maryann Scandiffio that I haven't said before? This is sure to be the record that will win them major recognition.

OK, I'll cut the hype. On the whole the album is very, very good but there are a couple of points I'd like to make. Firstly the production, whilst being an enormous improvement on "Unlaced" is still a bit 'iffy'. To my ears there's still something that's lacking that I should be but I can't quite put my finger on exactly what it is. Secondly, a couple of tracks do sound similar to other BLACKLACE material; a prime example being the title track which I still think sounds too close to "Damn Cheater" for comfort.

Elsewhere BLACKLACE are a potential hit. I'll always have time and a great deal of respect for these people, even if others find it funny to sing "Agadoo" whenever I wear my T.shirts in public. Death to all non-believers. N.Y.C. Rocks.

DAVE REYNOLDS

THE AMEBIX

Arise!
(Alternative Tentacles)

Out of the British hardcore punk scene comes THE AMEBIX who already have three single releases to their name, but "Arise!" is the band's first offering to the underground metal scene and an attempt to attract a wider audience.

One listen to the likes of "Slave", "Fear Of God" and "Largactyl" and immediate comparisons can be made to VENOM - even down to the Cronos like vocals of The Baron Rockin Von Aphid - although aware of the similarities THE AMEBIX claim to have been around a lot longer than the Geordie trio.

Despite the VENOM comparisons THE AMEBIX are far from being classed as black or thrash metal. Anarchist metal with a punk production is probably the best way to describe the album, with a noticable absence of any worthy lead soloing.

The inclusion of a ballad, "The Darkest Hour" may sound quite ridiculous for a predominantly punk/metal band but surprisingly works quite well and is undoubtably one of the heaviest most intense ballads ever recorded.

The title track,"Spoils Of Victory" and the doomy "Slave" are probably the albums best tracks and overall "Arise!" is sure to appeal to early VENOM and HELLHAMMER fans.

BERNARD DOE

NANTUCKET

Nantucket V
(Executive Records)

For those of you who thought NANTUCKET was dead, you will be surprised to find out that the boys are back after many a legal battle. Now on the Executive label (owned by former NAN member Mike Uzzell), it seems as if the band are really gonna be pushing for the big time. The LP has already sold 8,000 copies in 2 weeks.

Now I have always been impressed by NANTUCKET's unique brand of rock; but now the band has gone for a much more straight ahead modern rock sound. "Made For You" is my fave rave from side one's offerings, being a classy brand of A.O.R. that the likes of R.P.M. and SHELTER would have been proud of. In fact it's my favourite track and the style the whole LP should have been in. But still it's a worthwhile purchase.

KELV HELLRAZER

OSTROGOTH

Too Hot
(Mausoleum Records)

OSTROGOTH's third offering, but not as hot as the title would suggest. The Belgian quintet are still relying on their NWOBHM influences, which works well on the likes of "Halloween", "Shoot Back" and the fast paced title track - very reminiscent of early TYGERS this - but fail miserably on mundane rockers like "Sign Of Fire", "Love In The Streets" and the MAIDEN inspired instrumental "The Gardens Of Marrakesh", despite the novel violin intro.

"Night Women(Don't Like Me)" and the boppy metal of "Endless Winterdays" are not bad especially the latter with some nice lead breaks, but the uneventfl ballad "Catch The Sound Of Peace" is pretty appalling to say the least.

Overall "Too Hot" as an album is not that bad, but OSTROGOTH will need to show a lot more consistency if they're to become anything but "just another Heavy Metal band", despite what their biog says.

BERNARD DOE

VALHALLA

Valhalla
(Valhalla Records)

"Looking For The Light" showed some promise on this LP, but I can't really say that anything else really moved me on this Canuck outfits debut LP. There is really nothing on this LP that raises your eyelids and the black and white sleeve isn't exactly a plus point. I'm afraid it's average HM with occasional interesting keyboard overtones.

KELV HELLRAZER

AXEWITCH

Visions Of The Past
(Neat Records)

I know this album has been out for a few months now but it's only just recently been released in the UK by Neat Records.

"Visions Of The Past" sees the Swedish quintet moving away from the concept of "The Lord Of The Flies" album and into a more straight ahead metal approach.

"Give Them Hell" is the best track, a fast paced heavy rocker similar to LOUDNESS. While "Hot Lady" and"Stand Up" show a little more restraint in the early TYGERS OF PAN TANG mould, but are still good.

"Tonight" and the title track are more in a commercial heavy rock vein which are not bad but don't really suit the bands style. Nor does the mundane plod of "Born In Hell" which cannot be saved even by injecting a couple of METALLICA riffs into the affray.

The token ballad comes in the shape of the DIO like epic, "Heading For A Storm", which is let down by a less than convincing guitar solo. The final track "Time To Live" too disappoints.

So far AXEWITCH have never really fulfilled the promise shown with their debut "Pray For Metal" EP and I hope by the next album the band will have decided exactly what direction, musically, that they're going in.

BERNARD DOE

BULLDOZER
The Day Of Wrath
(Roadrunner Records)

Italian's answer to VENOM? Very much so, and more as the band power their way through such VENOMous offerings as "Insurrection Of The Living Damned", "Fallen Angel", "Cut Throat" and "Whisky Time".

Occasionally the band mix in some SLAYER inspired thrash like on "Mad Man" and the psycho frenzy of "The Great Deceiver" (the albums best cut) before burning out into the doom finale's of "Welcome Death" and "Endless Funeral". Recommended? Death-inately!

BERNARD DOE

AXTION
Look Out For the Night
(IRD Records)

This LP borders on MOTLEY CRUE territory. Check out "Spread The Action" as Darren Lazzari goes for death on the lightning lead guitar work. The production on this LP sucks bad; even I can produce better than this. Still an interesting debut.

KELV HELLRAZER

NIGHTWING
A Night Of Mystery
Alive! Alive!
(Gull)

Never being one to have taken a great deal of notice about NIGHTWING before, I must say I enjoyed being acquainted with the band via this live album recorded live in Yugoslavia and West Germany exactly one year ago.

NIGHTWING's music is classy pomp-rock and can best be compared to MAGNUM, UFO, STYX, OPUS and, keyboard-wise Hungary's OMEGA just for reference purposes, for NIGHTWING are wholly original.

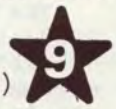
The band (Gordon Rowley-bass; Dave Evans-vocals; Glynn Porrino-guitars; Kenny Newton-keyboards; Steve Bartley-drums) perform a fine selection of songs which include the statement making "Something In The Air", the poignant "Night Of Mystery" (with Raymond sounding keyboard dabbling UFO-style from Newton), the punchy "Cell 151" and the fluent "Treading Water" amongst others."

The only track I didn't take to was the rather long NIGHTWING version of the sixties hit "You Keep Me Hanging On", but even so it's still better than the awful RODS version of it.

Overall this album brought back fond memories of my first hearing of MAGNUM's over-looked "Marauder" live album and proves that there are still British bands out there plugging away on the search for success whilst talentless dummies plague the nations charts. Gordon Rowley and Co. I salute you.

DAVE REYNOLDS

HALLOWS EVE
Tales Of Terror
(Metal Blade/Roadrunner)



Classical Horror Metal or just plain thrash? Well whatever you want to label HALLOWS EVE, their's no doubting the immense talent of these metalheads from Georgia.

"Tales Of Terror" contains both tracks from the bands superb demo reviewed in MF9, the frantic chanting "Metal Merchants" and the excellent MAIDEN injected speed metal of "Hallows Eve". The latter being an eight minute epic of awesome proportions, and worth buying the album for alone.

The remaining tracks may just fall short of classic material, but the likes of the opening thrash of "Plunging To Megadeth", the MOTORHEADish "Horror Show", the METALLICA influenced "The Mansion" and the out and out power metal of "Outer Limits" and "There Are No Rules", all add up to one helluva debut album that is destined to make HALLOWS EVE one of the most popular bands on the underground metal circuit.

BERNARD DOE

BALL AND CHAIN
Ball And Chain
(Rampant Frog Records)

Mor original than the VALHALLA Lp, but the vocalist is a bit weak and so is the production; at one point it seemed as if this mini-LP was gonna be a semi-thrash, no such luck though. This type of music lacks identity; but for those of us who have tastes for the totally obscure; it's probably an essential buy.

KELV HELLRAZER

DARK WIZARD
Reign Of Evil
(Mausoleum Records)

These Dutch rockers showed a lot of promise with their debut "Devil's Victim" mini-album, but I'm afraid this latest effort is very disappointing.

Basically the band are just trying to be too clever with the varying tempo changes. The mixture of doom and unimaginitive plodding metal just doesn't work here for DARK WIZARD.

The only real excitement comes on the title track, the very last song on the album, when the band unleash at full throttle. But the truth is that at the moment DARK WIZARD do not possess any material of any quality to warrant a full length album.

BERNARD DOE

ODIN
Don't Take No For An Answer
(Half Wet Records)

ODIN look typical LA which is good to me and sound like a superior version of WARRIOR. "The Writer" features some nice, beyond Halford screams. Definate semi-thrash with glam overtones, although it doesn't exactly threaten the likes of WITCH. Pressed in white vinyl as an added bonus.

KELV HELLRAZER

VAN ZANT
Vanzant
(Geffen Records)

Johnny Van Zant throws in the towel on his southern boogie background and turns to mainstream A.O.R. metal. R.P.M. and COBRA cover versions all over the place and an Eddie Schwartz cover thrown in for good measure. An essential purchase.

KELV HELLRAZER

HOLLAND
Little Monsters
(Atlantic Records)

The HOLLAND in question is one Tom Holland ex-B'ZZ. Joining Tom is ex-CULPRIT guitarist Mike Batio. Now this LP came as a bit or a surprise to me as I expected it to be a helluva lot more commercial. Tom Holland's vocals come on as a cross between Michael Des Barres and Nicki Buzz. As for Mike Batio he has really come of age. Some of his guitar sounds on this LP are out of this world; check out the intro to "Love In On Time" - unreal or what? Tune in also to the mean power rockin' of "Wake Up The Neighbourhood".

For those of you who loved the first VENDETTA and STRANGER LP's this is for you. Go get it.

KELV HELLRAZER

SINGLES & E.P.'S

OUTSIDE
Action
(Krypton)

OUTSIDE are from the TRANCE school of German metal and have come up with a rather promising debut, that's certainly a lot better than stablemates SAINTS ANGER.

"Action"is a fast paced, aggressive affair while the "B" side "Heavy Metal" is a little more restrained ala ACCEPT but still good. Worth checking out. For more information write to: OUTSIDE C/O Bernd Michael, Ochsensteinstr.3, D-6741 Essingen, WEST GERMANY.

BERNARD DOE

SHE
Never Surrender EP
(Neat 50 12")

Nice Americanized pop-metal from a North-East five-piece produced by Fred Purser of TYGERS fame and led by the delicate voice of Karen McInulty. "Never Surrender" is the kind of material that would go down well with affectcinado's of 1994 and their ilk.

The two tracks on side two; "Breaking Away" and "On My Way" just cry out for a big budget production from Beau Hill or Jack Douglas. Karen's vocals on the former are a beautiful cross between Maryann Scandiffio and Karen Lawrance. The latter is led by a booming Paul Defty drum sound and again echoes 1994. Excellent. Watch out for this band (and don't confuse 'em with Tracey Lamb's group).

DAVE REYNOLDS

WAXFACE
The Graves Of God EP
(Mausoleum Records)

The title track is not a bad slice of power metal.But unfortunately the Belgian's cannot retain the excitement as the remaining three numbers drop into uneventful, plodding metal territory, not helped by a dodgy production. Better luck next time boys.

BERNARD DOE

BRIAR
One More Chance/Feelings
(FM)

Laid back AOR from this promising young British band. "Feelings" is more up-tempo, but fairly average hard rock. Debut album "Too Young" due out soon.

BERNARD DOE

TYSONDOG
Tysondog EP
(Neat Records)

This EP features three new tracks plus a new version of the fast and powerful "Hammerhead" from the band's "Beware Of The Dog" LP.

The medium paced metal of "Changeling" is the best of the newer material, with the remaining numbers "Shoot To Kill" and "Back To The Bullet" lacking the real excitement of say "Hammerhead" or "Dead Meat" from their debut. Expect better things from TYSONDOG's new album "Taste The Hate".

BERNARD DOE

EMMY STRUT
Emmy Strut EP
(Emmy Strut)

Despite a dodgy low budget production this is quite a promising debut four tracker from this Quad-City based band.

EMMY STRUT are far from thrash, but songs like "No Escape" and especially "Comin' And Gone" are quite pacey affairs. In fact all four cuts show some highly imaginitive riffing and given a decent production, along with the distinctive vocal sound of Scott Thompson, EMMY STRUT could be a band to stand out from the pack in their quest for recognition.

At the moment the band do not have any distribution deals for this EP, so to obtain your copy send 5 US dollars to EMMY STRUT, 3211 - 53rd St., Moline, IL 61265, USA.

BERNARD DOE

CHROME MOLLY
Take It Or Leave It EP
(Powerstation)

Apparantly CHROME MOLLY are 'the best young unsigned band in Britain'. I can't really see why majors would want to sign them unless they want to groom them into the new TERRAPLANE, and discard them when it's obvious the band aren't going to smash the charts wide open with 'modern' metal-pop.

I find "Take It Or Leave It" to be a touch tedious and the dance/wally/Molly-mix is hilarious, but will probably go down well at Ziggy's in York. I'll have to get Steve Hammonds to check this out, he'll love it. I'll, er, leave it.

The other two tracks "Lonely" and "Don't Let Go" are average, 'catchy' - TOKYO BLADE gone pop - with added guitar solo - rockers. I prefer the Bullet 12" "You Said" to this.

DAVE REYNOLDS

MEGUMI HAYAKAWA
Metal Version 12" EP
(Eastworld - Jap Import)

Megumi Hayakawa is a ratther innocent looking female Japanese singer who on this performance (she sings in English) sounds very second rate indeed.

Strangely the EP contains all cover versions, "C'mon And Love Me" (KISS), "Gudbuy T'Jane" (SLADE), "Sons And Lovers" (ALCATRAZZ) and "I Wanna Rock" (TWISTED SISTER), and quite honestly I can see no justification for its release at all.

BERNARD DOE

BLACK ROSE
Nightmare EP
(Neat 48 12")

BLACK ROSE are picking up where DIAMOND HEAD's original line-up left-off. I've always considered BLACK ROSE to be one of Britain's best metal bands and this 12" EP put out on the Neat label confirms this. This record oozes class from the atmospheric "Nightmare" to the catchiness of "Breakaway". Excellent metal. "Need A Lot Of Lovin'" and "Rock Me Hard" complete the package, something everybody should buy now. Got me?

DAVE REYNOLDS

NASH THE SLASH
We're An American Band/
Who Do You Love
(FM)

Two heavy rock classics turned into disco piss-takes. CRAP.

BERNARD DOE

KNIGHTMARE II
Death Do Us Part EP
(Raucous Records)

I quite enjoyed this band's last single (reviewed in MF 10) but I'm afraid they've failed to capitalize on that potential here with this five track EP. It's mainly all mundane plod metal with only "Promise Land" really stretching above average. Still this "Death To Us Part" 12" EP can be yours by sending $7.50 including postage and packing (Europe add $2.00) to: Raucous Records, P.O. Box 2295, Seal Beach, CA 90740, USA.

BERNARD DOE

XERON

KELV HELLRAZER Talks To Guitarist TREVOR JAY And Drummer JEFF WOLFE

Imagine the ultimate group; a band that writes songs full of wild riffs but yet has the melodic class of JOURNEY. XERON comes close to being this band. Their debut LP "Does Anybody Hear" is chock full of wild riffing and spine chilling class. Take the highly memorable number "Visions". It rockets along a'la QUEENSRYCHE style and then after the second verse the guitars take a back seat to the vocal contortions of one Larry Leon. "Visions" is one of the most original numbers I've heard in ages. The same can be said for the rest of side one of XERON's mini-LP. Side two tends to be more of the usual heavier AOR style but still great stuff.

Joining the vocalist Larry Leon, we have Geoffrey Bowlick (bass guitar), Paul McPhee (rhythm guitar), Trevor Jay (lead guitar) and Jeff Wolfe (drums). In an overdose of transatlantic phone mayhem I spoke to Trevor Jay and Jeff Wolfe and got them to fill me in with the history of the band. Trevor: "Basically the band was formed a year and a half ago. We searched around for different members until we found the musicians of the highest calibre.

"I actually formed the band around six to seven years ago with lots of different musicians. The guy who does backing vocals on the LP was the singer before Larry."

Jeff: "I've been in the band for two and a half years. Before that I was basically in small bands in Orange County." Trevor: "The newest member to the band is Paul McPhee our rhythm guitarist. He only plays on one of the tracks on the LP. Our old rhythmist John Woloszyn plays on most of the LP."

Who are the bands influences? Trevor: "Well, I know I'm basically a LED ZEPPELIN freak. I've been into the band since 1969. As far as I'm concerned Page is the best guitarist around. I'm more into the technical side of guitar playing." Jeff: "The rest of the band is basically into melodic rock: JOURNEY, NIGHTRANGER etc."

Who is this keyboard player Mike Tavera who plays on the LP? Jeff: "Mike isn't actually a full time member of the band, which is kind of a shame really because he's such a talented individual. The basic story is he works with a lot of other bands and does not really have time for one band. We would have like to have had him on the sleeve but as you could have guessed he was too busy to make the photo session."

A lot of people have compared Larry, your vocalist to Steve Perry, what are your feelings towards this statement? Trevor: "I would say there is a hint of Perry if you had to compare him to anybody, but he's not a total clone. Our music definately isn't that much like JOURNEY. We're heavy but then we change and we are totally melodic. Basically it's record sales that matter, and appealing to the right people. Being heavy and having lots of credibility is fine, but the metal audience is so limited, hence XERON's efforts of trying to bridge the gaps between both markets. Basically I prefer the harder rocking of side one to side two of the LP, side two is a hell of a lot more commercial."

What comes next for XERON? Jeff: "Touring is the next step we're gonna concentrate on. Hopefully we're gonna get a big support tour to one of the major acts. This will probably all start coming together in or around the end of June". Trevor: "A single is gonna be taken from the LP but at the moment we're letting everyone else decide because our tastes are different to what's commercially viable. Also we're gonna get an English distributor to do the LP for us."

So there you have it, get ready for the imminent XERON invasion.

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FANZINE CORNER

Anyone who wishes to publicize their HM magazine/fanzine in METAL FORCES should send a sample copy along with details of obtaining the publication (please keep it short!) to: METAL FORCES, 17 Livingstone Link, Chells, Stevenage, Herts., SG2 0EP, ENGLAND.

IMPORTANT: We cannot publicize magazines without first seeing a sample copy. This avoids printing letters from people with imaginary fanzines who are hoping to cash in on albums, demo tapes and other such freebies. So be warned!!!

Bands please note that all of the fanzines featured on this page are looking for demos and vinyl to review. So if you want to give more exposure to your band then send material, photo, biography to any of the addresses listed.

METAL WARRIORS No. 1 is fuckin' out now! 44 pages full of true metal! No. 1 features interviews with DESTRUCTION, Sodom, Iron Angel, Tank, Warlock, Bathory, Voi Vod, Living Death, Mercyful Fate, Sad Iron and tons more. It also includes a poster of Sodom and a poster of Destruction!!!!! So buy or die in pain! METAL WARRIORS No. 1 can be ordered for 5DM, £1.50 or $2.00 inc. Postage. All orders to: METAL WARRIORS c/o Rudiger Schmitz, Christoph-Probst-Str.11, 4040 Neuss 1, WEST GERMANY.

UNIVERSAL BRAIN BASHER! "The Number 1 leading cause of brain damage!" Issue 1 is out and features, Wrathchild, Poison, Witch, Damien Thorne, Overkill, Eden and Uncle Basher writes back and more. Read about US bands and bands all over the world. Send $1 US(or closest amount in other currencies) add 50¢ postage and handling. Send to: UNIVERSAL BRAIN BASHER Headquarters, 29008 Gladiolus, Canyon Country, CA 91351, USA.

METAL POWER, one of Germany's leading underground magazines is looking for new bands coming from all over the world, hardcore metal prefered! Besides we are interested in cooperation with other magazines. METAL POWER is professionally done and can be ordered for DM5 (each). Overseas $2.00. Issue 3 features interviews with Running Wild, Bathory, Acid, Sodom, Warlock, Steeler, Slayer, Trance also Nasty Savage, Exodus, Savage Grace etc. Issues 1 and 2 are sold out!! METAL POWER, Karsten Rauer, Heidekamp 56, 5840 Schwerte 1, WEST GERMANY.

Brazilian Metal Fanzine HEAVY METAL MANIAC is still looking for unknown HM bands all over the world. Bands wishing to appear in the next issue, just send demo/vinyl, b/w photo and bio to: HEAVY METAL MANIAC Fan Club c/o Moises Dell Monica, Caixa Postal 512, Centro, Sao Caetano Do Sul, CEP 09500, S.Paulo. BRAZIL. We also want contributors from USA, UK and Europe.

MARSHALL STACK (The World's only Total Metal Magazine) announces the arrival of it's 2nd issue! 32 pages of raging mayhem featuring Razor, Slayer, Shok Paris, Dark Age, Scarab, Chateaux, Nasty Savage, Cirith Ungol, Mistreater and stacks more! We've now halved the price to 50p/$1.00 (Cash or Cheque) Postage is still free! Issue 1 is also available (for £1/$2), featuring Whiplash, Elixir, Battleaxe, Atomkraft, Liege Lord, Omen, Grim Reaper, Impaler and Exciter. Both issues are available at Shades for 50p each. Write to: Joel Griggs, 52 The Charter Road, Woodford Green, Essex IG8 9RD, ENGLAND.

SCHLAG French Power Metal fanzine. First issue out now features Exodus, Adx, Halloween, Vulture and lots more. Send 10 francs including postage to: SCHLAG, C/O Herve Guegano, 18 bis, avenue de Sully, 78320 Le Mesnil St Denis, FRANCE.

SENTINEL Italian Heavy Metal magazine. No. 3 features Steel Crown, 220 Volt, Strana Officina, Elektradrive, Powerage, Warhead, Skull and more. For more info write to: SENTINEL C/O Roberto Draghi, Via Liutprando 26/A, 05100 Terni, ITALY.

HEAVY DUTY Australian Undergroud metal magazine. No. 2 features Blackjack, Nothing Sacred, Iron Maiden plus album and live reviews. For more info write to Barrie 'Jef Leppard' Edwards, c/o 6 Melville St., North Fitzroy, 3068 Vic. AUSTRALIA.

ASSAULT Issue No. 2 out now with Living Death, Possessed, Savage Grace, Nasty Savage, Destruction, Mayhem (NY), Hallows Eve, Iron Angel and much, much more! Any thrash/hardcore bands should send any info if they want to be featured in ASSAULT. Send $2.00(US) and $2.50(Overseas) to: ASSAULT c/o Warren Hall, 335 Rosilie St., San Mateo , CA 94403, USA.

METAL CAOS No. 1, featuring interviews with Slayer, Metallica, Queensryche, Great White, Armored Saint, Virgin Steele, Steel Assassin, Raff, Royal Air Force... and many, many, other articles! Send £1.50(Europe), $2.00(US) to METAL CAOS, Via Tre Spighe 6, 67100 L'Aquila, ITALY.

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THRASH: Canadian Underground Metal Magazine. Issue 2 now available, featuring Piledriver, Running Wild, Slayer, Megadeth, Razor, Loudness and more! Send $2.50 (Canadian) to Adam Carlo c/o THRASH magazine, 40 Strathmere Place,Guelph, Ontario, CANADA. N1H 5L8.

ZOETROPE

MIKE VERGANE VISITS THE MEMBERS IN A GANG

One of the best things about a vacation is its unpredictability. So, on my most recent week off it was back to my old stomping grounds outside of Chicago.

But surprise. When I arrived at the airport no one was able to pick me up. Luckily, Barry Stern the lead singer and drummer of ZOETROPE, was an old acquintance and was nice enough to drive to the airport and keep me entertained 'til I had a way out of town.

Since I had never met the band in person (only on the phone) I didn't know what the band was like personally. In many cases, the band's style of music parrots the bands personality. Such was the case here. ZOETROPE to me has always been a tough gut level band. Barry Stern prefers to call themselves a "Street Metal Band". A band that was born in the tough streets of the city of Chicago. A band that couldn't give a shit about a Satanic image or a Pretty Boy image. They are exactly what their music is, Street Tough.

Before I go any further, ZOETROPE is pronounced E-TROPE, not ZO-TROPE, let's all say it together, E-TROPE.

ZOETROPE's new album "Break Your Back" should be out very soon (if it's not already) on Combat in the US and Roadrunner in Europe. ZOETROPE has a cut on Metal Blade's "Metal Massacre 4". But according to Barry Stern, they weren't tied to Metal Blade and wanted to ship their new LP around. "We sent a release to alll of the labels stating that we were finishing up an album and Combat contacted us back in writing expressing an interest in the band. They're giving us this one shot, and if it sells there will be more ZOETROPE on Combat", said Barry.

And now Chicago has four. Ken Black, Kevin Michael, Calvin Humphrey and Barry Stern, collectively known as ZOETROPE are Chicago's fourth metal band signed to an indie label. One would think that with bands like ZOETROPE and TROUBLE sitting in Chicago, that there would be an adequate supply of banging in the windy city. "Not necessarily" said Barry, "One of the questions the President of Combat Records had in signing us was that he thought the metal scene was so backwards here. What is 250 people to a band in Chicago is double or triple that in LA or NY." And the problems don't end there according to guitarist Kevin Michael, "when a band is signed, the whole package is originated on the East or West Coast - wherever the label is at. It's hard for the label to reach all the way into the midwest and try to run a band's itinery for recording or touring."

Regardless of these problems, Combat made the right decision and signed ZOETROPE. And as I said earlier, "Break Your Back" is the result. A nine song assault on the senses. For those of you who remember their 1983 demo "Metal Log Volume I", you will notice a slight difference. They are taking a faster direction but they are not neglecting the songwriting by taking this route. Avoiding thrash for thrash sake is a necessity! Each and every cut is strong with an abundance of riffs and melodies. Two of these nine cuts, "Member In A Gang" and "Kill The Enemy" with its intro from the movie "Uncommon Valor" both appeared on "Metal Log Vol. I". The other seven are new and kill with power. "Amnesty" will go down as a favourite with all the hard-core's.

In fact, while visiting with the band it came across clearly that here was where the band's personal tastes were at. Especially guitarist Ken Black and Barry Stern, the main songwriter. Bands like D.R.I., MINOR THREAT and SUICIDAL TENDENCIES rank as their favourites.

Before I left that day there was one question that I had to ask Barry that always puzzled me. A drummer who is also the lead singer seems like a difficult combination. Had the band ever talked about adding a front man to the line-up? "We've been serious, non-serious and everything in-between about that subject," said Barry. Ken Black added, "Barry matches us. We don't want no guy with a headband shakin' his fuckin' ass in front of the stage!"

Ken's statement more than anything summarizes where ZOETROPE is at. They aren't pretty. Barry's voice certainly isn't pretty and he doesn't want to be, because it's street metal and it's played by the members in the gang.

KEVIN MICHAEL

BARRY STERN

CALVIN HUMPHREY

KEN BLACK

DEMO-LITION

TOUGH LOVE

Take five of the best girl hard rock musicians in the world and you have Chicago's TOUGH LOVE. Take also the wild looks of vocalist Nancy Davis (centre) and guitarist Gerre Edinger (second left) and you could be talking about the most successful all-girl hard rock act of all time. Joining Nancy and Gerry the line-up is completed by Deanna Rose (bass, far left), Berni Poplolex (guitar, second right), Leslee Kaye (drums, far right).

The one track which I received isn't really a demo, in fact it's from an obscure Chicago compilation LP. "Red Lights The Sky" is an absolute barnstormer. It really reminds me of Lita Ford but a million times more memorable. Gerre Edinger's killer axe work eats LF for breakfast. Nancy Davis has a fine voice as well to match her beauty.

I haven't been so excited about a bands future success ever before and I know TOUGH LOVE are gonna make some record company lots of money. Gerre tells me "We're really pissed off that a couple of all girl bands have spoilt it for us with their talentless playing and useless images." It baffles me to find out that TL are unknown Stateside but I am told it's due to mis-management. All I can say is that this is an out and out MF exclusive. No matter how many trans-Atlantic calls it took to get this one tracker I believe it was worth it. The band have also released an LP under the name BITCH back in '82 and a single last year under the TOUGH LOVE monicker.

I have been told by top record execs that all-girl bands don't sell LP's and only get guys going to gigs out of curiosity. Well TOUGH LOVE are gonna change all that. The interested millions can contact the band at: TOUGH LOVE, 3444 Summerhill Drive, Woodridge, ILL 60517, USA.

KELV HELLRAZER

MAX PLANCK

MAX PLANCK claim to be on top of the seattle music scene. Has this band any connection with the absymal band on the Metal Madness volume one compilation? It seems so 'cos I found the demo was boring too. Not my cup of tea at all. Mind you, the demo's opening number "Roar" does contain the brilliant line "HEAVY METAL FORCES prowling in the street." So all is not lost!

The band, comprised of Rod Freeman - vocals/guitar; Spike-bass and Eddie Forcier prove that the Seattle scene appears to have lost momentum in face of the LA onslaught. Whatever happened to the classy Seattle metal? Where are the likes of LIPSTICK, BONDAGE BOYS, OVERLORD etc? Gone the way of all men that's for sure. The Seattle metal scene is suffering as a result.

If you wish to obtain this demo, after all, it may be what you are looking for, then by all means send 5 dollars to: MAX PLANCK, 2006 35th Ave., W., Seattle WA 98199, USA. Containing eight tracks, including the aforementioned "Roar"; a hilarious but otherwise uninspiring METAL CHURCH send-up in "Starscream" and the equally funny "Fok-Dup" (Geddit?) it might be your style. I'll just sit and listen to my Seattle memories in the form of OVERLORD and the old TKO demo's. A son of the past I'm afraid.

DAVE REYNOLDS

HAVE MERCY

Maryland's HAVE MERCY, who first appeared in MF 9 with their highly promising "Pleading For Mercy" demo, return with a new demo, "Mass Destruction", along with a couple of line-up changes. Vocalist Lee Dayton and guitarist Nick Ellingson have been replaced by Lonnie Fletcher and John Brenner, who join Tom Maxwell (guitar), Rob Michael (bass) and John "The Nort" Knoerlein (drums).

HAVE MERCY have obviously been listening to large doses of TROUBLE since their last offering as the Chicago metal merchants influences are clearly noticeable on four out of the five new numbers, especially "Holy Dismissal". The exception to the rule is the frantically powerful "Mass Destruction".

Those TROUBLE influences are well supported with injections of thrash as the band go for death on "An Introit To Evil" and the superb "The Omen", although "City Of Doom" is somewhat let down by a poor vocal performance.

As with the last demo, the production of "Mass Destruction" leaves a lot to be desired - the vocals in particular are too dominant in the mix - but on the whole HAVE MERCY are still heading in the right direction and it shouldn't be too long before the band start getting some serious label interest.

To obtain a copy of "Mass Destruction" send $5.00 ($6.00 outside the U.S.) to HAVE MERCY, P.O.Box 25911, Baltimore, MD 21224, USA and make cheques payable to Robert Michael.

BERNARD DOE

BLOODSHOT EYES

London based BLOODSHOT EYES were formed in December 1984 by ex-BAD BLOOD guitarist and vocalist George Witter. The rest of the line-up is Eian (guitar) and John Prim(bass). William Hayter plays drums on the demo but is no longer in the band and they're currently looking for a replacement.

The demo contains six tracks which are well produced and the band have obviously put a lot of work into it, but quite frankly I thought this heavy mundane rock went out with the ark.

Song titles like "Foot On The Gas" and "Wooe Wooe Baby" pretty much sums up where this band are at, and it's certainly not 1985. Back in the early seventies BLOODSHOT EYES may well have got away with it, but today I'm afraid there's no serious market for this type of rock at all. If the band are hoping for a record deal then I suggest they change their whole style and direction quick.

Contact: BLOODSHOT EYES c/o George Witter, 7 Slade Tower, Grange Est., Church Road, Leyton SHU, London, ENGLAND.

BERNARD DOE

N.M.E.

There can be no doubt that N.M.E. have been brought up on a healthy diet of VENOM. The bands first demo "Machine Of War" contains some adequate if not overwhelming slices of Geordie inspired black metal, tinged with touches of SLAYERand the grossness of HELLHAMMER.

"Of Hell/Lethal Dose", "Unspeakable" and "Acid Reign" are the track titles; Brian Llapitan (vocals), Kurt Struebing (guitars), Scott Tinsley (bass) and Steve Meier (drums) are the band members; and a copy of "Machine Of War" can be obtained by sending $4.00 to Kurt Struebing, 27902 Pacific Highway.S. Apt. 217, Federal Way, WA 98003, USA. As the band say "We're not trying to be evil, we just are"!

BERNARD DOE

DEEP FREEZE

DEEPFREEZE was originally put together in the late 70's by guitarist Richard Brooks. Vocalist Priscilla Hairriett who had been playing with her band, PRISCILLA HAIRRIETT BAND, joined Richard Brooks in 1982 and soon with new material, the band played out as DEEPFREEZE and did a mini-tour with TWISTED SISTER in the tri-state area in the summer of 1983. DEEPFREEZE also played gigs in New Jersey before Priscilla joined.

DEEPFREEZE also features Joe Nouolo (drums/vocals) and Steve Heruactic (bass/vocals) Joe has played with MAHOGANY RUSH and also clicked stix for the GOOD RATS.

The 4-track demo was rushed to me by luscious vocalist Priscilla who definately thought she was front page material.(Are we talking full-frontals? Ed.) Of the four tracks available "Straight Through My Heart" impressed me the most. Priscilla cuts a Karen Lawrence type figure on vocals, in fact the whole band is very much in the 1994 vein. But these tracks are much more up-to-date than any of the 1994 material which has wilted with age. "Soft Touch" is extremely pleasant listening, whilst "Mamas Rockin' Babies" is much more exciting stuff. Surging the VU meters into the red zones of my tape deck.

Anyway the band have two tracks on a forthcoming New Renaissance Records compilation "Ladykillers". So you can check them out on that or send $5.00 for a copy of the demo to: DEEPFREEZE, 38 Lawrence Rd., Randolph, New Jersey, 07869, USA.

KELV HELLRAZER

GREEN RIVER

GREEN RIVER hail from Seattle and were formed back in May of last year. The band's line-up consists of Mark Arm (vocals), Steven Turner and Stone Gossard (guitars), Jeff Ament (bass) and Alex Vincent (drums).

It's not every day you come across a band who list such diversity's as VENOM, SWEET, 13TH FLOOR ELEVATORS, AEROSMITH, METALLICA, and THE STOOGES as their influences, so GREEN RIVER have to be interesting if nothing else.

Now whilst I hate to criticise a band who are undoubtably seeking to create a distinctive original sound rather than trying to emulate present day metal trends, I'm afraid GREEN RIVER's style of a mixture of TROUBLE and LED ZEPPELIN doesn't really work too well on this offering. Tracks like "Come On Down", "New God" and "Tunnel Of Love" fail to lift above boredom level, while "Ride Of Your Life" is just plain messy. Drummer Alex Vincent sounds unsure whether he should be playing slow or fast to the choppy pace.

"Corner Of My Eye" is a fairly aggressive affair and is not a bad number. The same can be said about "Your Own Best Friend" although "Swallow My Pride" is the kind of mid-sixties acid rock that sounds far too dated to generate any real excitement by today's standards.

I wouldn't want to dismiss GREEN RIVER as total no-hopers because I appreciate what they are trying to achieve. But the strength of material and overall tightness of the band needs to improve quite a lot before they can hope to cause any real waves in the music world. Still I wish them luck.

Pic Charles Peterson

For more info write to: GREEN RIVER, C/O GREEN RIVER TASK FORCE, P.O.Box 85396, Seattle, WA 98105-1306, USA.

BERNARD DOE

AUDION

An interesting trio from New York City. AUDION describe themselves as an "Aggressive Progressive" hard rock band and the four-track demo confirms this description.

Formed in 1982 AUDION have just recently turned to a three-piece arrangement, following the exit of keyboardist Arthur Ramirez because they want to"consolidate and focus further, AUDION's powerful style." So the current situation has Pierre Guillerme (guitars), Bob Scott (drums) and Solon Tsangaras (bass/vocals). Whether they'll suffer without having a keyboard player only time can tell.

AUDION aren't the greatest thing I've heard, but at least they sound fresh and original and, in places, pretty weird. I tried looking for comparisons, had a couple of names on the tip of my tongue, but couldn't for the life of me get them out. There is a bit of RUSH in the ending to "Eye To Eye", but otherwise I just can't remember the names of the bands AUDION remidn me of. All I can give you is RUSH's "Cygnus X1" period.

This demo is well worth having if you're into off-the-wall "Aggressive Progressive" metal and will enjoy songs like "Fallen Angels", "Metropolis", "Eye To Eye" and the brilliantly metallic "Dark Shepard". Very interesting, original and above-all, well produced.

Contact: AUDION C/O Pierre Guillerme, 400 West 56 Street, New York, NY 10019, USA.

DAVE REYNOLDS

WHITE TRASH

WHITE TRASH were formed from the ashes of SACRED ALIEN a band I unfortunately encountered twice live. The band had some excellent numbers the second time I saw them but barring the near belly dancing/strut power of Sean Canning the rest of the band were a bunch of wallies.

Now Canning is back with a new troupe and has teamed up with the wild and moody Johnny Vincent. Now with these two guys forming a Kozack/Diamond partnership it's a sure fire formula for rock'n'roll success. Joining Sean Canning (vocals) and Johnny Vincent (guitars) you have Big Al Stone (drums) and Ghost (bass).

The two tracker I received features "No Surrender In The Dark" and "Sweet Street Angels". Sean Canning is very impressive on both of the numbers; he has a certain charisma in his voice that makes him a cut above the rest. "No Surrender" is a slow paced number and has a really memorable chorus line, whilst "Sweet Street Angels" is the powerful cock-strutin' glam anthem that should be taken straight to a glam fans heart. Canning comes across as a more metallic version of Billy Idol. There's even a thrashy type riff after the chorus for the real metallist amongst us. (You? - Ed) Yep the demo's highly recommended.

Contact: WHITE TRASH c/o Warren Heighway, 04 Salix Court, Salford 6, Gr. Manchester, ENGLAND.

KELV HELLRAZER

Pic Katherine

DARKON

The quality of the four-track tape submitted by this Toronto based trio ranges from poor to fuckin' awful. I do wish bands would take a little more care about what they send in for review, instead of throwing the first thing they get down on tape, into an envelope and whisking it away to magazines and record companies in the hope of instant success.

From what I can make out, DARKON are not that bad, adequate medium paced metal with a guitarist, Evan Roworth, who certainly has his inspired moments such as on "Circle Of Fire" and the semi-doom of "Echoes Of Death".

Drummer Mike Childs (who formed the band with Roworth in 1984) takes on the lead vocals which could be better, but I understand that they're currently seeking a lead vocalist.

As I said, DARKON, whose line-up is completed by Zsolt Henczely (bass), are not that bad and I'd be interested to hear more when they can produce a tape of decent quality. And next time remember to send a photo.

For more info write to:- DARKON c/O Mike Childs, 1615 Dundas St. East., Apt. 207, Toronto, Ontario, M4L 1L2, CANADA.

BERNARD DOE

THANATOS

A weird demo from these Dutch speed metallists with frantic thrash numbers being linked with classical guitar! You've got to hear it to believe it.

Formed in the Spring of 1984, THANATOS' line-up reads: Stephan Gebédy (lead guitar/vocals), Remco De Maaijer (lead and classical guitar) and Marcel Van Arnhem (drums). The band are still searching for a permanent bass player.

The demo contains seven tracks with plenty of SLAYER and METALLICA influences but lacking any originality(apart from the classical interludes), although with an average age of only 17 there's obviously plenty of time for development.

Best tracks are probably "Blind Obedience" and "Speed Kills" which despite being a little on the short side is till a quite promising thrasher although I have a distinct disliking to the grunt'n'shriek vocals. "The Knell/Thanatos" is also worth a mention for its interesting mixture of TROUBLE doom with METALLICA speed. But generally I would say the material needs to be a lot stronger before the band can start attracting serious record company interest.

The price of the demo is £3.00 (Europe) or £3.50 (USA/Canada) which includes a colour photo and P&P. An 8-track live tape is also available for the same price as above. Send your orders to:- THANATOS c/o Stephen Gebédy, Dordtselaan 27F, 3081 BD Rotterdam, HOLLAND.

BERNARD DOE

GARGOYLE

Based in Portland, Oregon (scene of many a good Rambo battle!) GARGOYLE were formed in 1982 by drummer David Kendall and guitarist Kevin Saunders. Since the formation they have been through many a line-up change settling on bassist Doug Smith (ex-MONARCH) but for the time being they are still trying to find a vocalist, because previous singer Keith Flax left to audition for WARLORD.

Since their inception they have built a sizeable following opening for bands such as WILD DOGS and CULPRIT. GARGOYLE now station themselves in LA where they are recording an EP, but this demo was recorded previously with David on vocals.

The tape is rather an uninspiring thrashy affair; plenty of attention is payed to 100 mph guitar solo's and inaudiable vocals. So what can I say? From the opening song "Into The Darkness" to the final effort "Man In Black", the whole tape just flew by with nothing standing out apart from the monotonous repitions of what has and always will be thrash metal, (which means 80% of our readers will probably like GARGOYLE - Ed). Someone will sign them so don't worry.

Write to:- GARGOYLE, Parasite Prod., 872 Colbath Ave., Panorama City, CA 91402, USA.

STEVE HAMMONDS

SCREAMER

SCREAMER are Mike McCain (vocals), 'Big' Al Ramirez and Robert McCain (guitars), Mike Sharp (bass) and Robert Ramirez (drums).

East Coast, West Coast, nah - these guys hail from Huston, Texas and are out to prove Texas knows how to rock'n'roll - so the biog says.

SCREAMER were formed years ago by brothers Big Al and Bob Ramirez and bassist Mike Sharp, who were soon joined by the McCain brothers. They claim never to sacrifice quality for glamour and they are determined to crank out hard drivin' rock'n'roll for everyone. Not just headbangers but high school girls, executives and even housewives.

Well judging by the tape they live up to those comments. From the first song "Throw Down" to the last "Armies Of The Night" they really throw the gauntlet down. The songs are maybe a bit lyrically banal, but musically they flow so well, taking influences from MOLLY HATCHET to METALLICA. The fourth song "Your Daddy Don't Like Me" starts off with a nice slow intro and goes into a great riff, faster and superior than anything I've heard in a long time.

Of the rest of the songs "Settle The Score" is a good ole southern song and "Armies Of The Night" is a good fast finisher. Altogether SCREAMERS selection of songs is a good all round taster for a band who with maybe wider ideas could impress largely.

For more info on SCREAMER write to: Robert McCain, 8642 Glenn Valley Drive, Huston, Texas, 77061, USA.

STEVE HAMMONDS

Any bands wishing to be included in DEMO-LITION should send tape, photo and full band biography to: METAL FORCES, Demo-lition, 17 Livingstone Link, Chells, Stevenage, Herts., SG2 OEP, ENGLAND.

SEVENTH HEAVEN

Are NIGHTRANGER A Pomp-Metal Dream?

DAVE REYNOLDS Talks To JEFF WATSON

The 'purists' like to describe NIGHT RANGER as wimps. I like to describe them as a classy pomp-metal band. With only three albums to their credit, the San Franciscan outfit have netted an audience that includes both the REO SPEEDWAGEON cutsie-pie party crowd (mainly female) and the OZZY OSBOURNE metal audience (mainly male). A perfect interstate love affair?

NIGHT RANGER recently played select dates in Europe with mega wimp-outs FOREIGNER and blew them away, proving that maybe Jones and Co are getting a little too old to rock'n' roll. It was deep in the bowels of MCA's London office where MF's roving reporter talked to guitarist Jeff Watson about 'RANGER's swift rise to stardom.

The band had been playing some pretty big 'wimp-rock' festivals before we spoke. Where and with whom Jeff? "We started in Germany, all the rock festivals in Germany, Switzerland, France, Belgium, Scotland and England. Some of the shows we did also featured HUEY LEWIS, RICK SPRINGFIELD, MARILLION and MINK DEVILLE."

Germany seems to be where NIGHT RANGER have the biggest profile in Europe don't you think? "Yeah, Germany worked out real good. There's a lot of American Servicemen over there which may have something to do with it. It's definately contagious if you get a lot of servicemen around."

The UK release of your latest album "Seven Wishes" is obviously pleasing? "I'm glad it finally came out over here! I thought our other albums had come out over here but apparantly they didn't."

Actually they did. The first one "Dawn Patrol" came out through Epic about six months late and the second "Midnight Madness" was released nearly a year after Stateside release on MCA. "It's ridiculous! Well, I guess now we're happening. We're really glad to have come over here, I've never been to Europe before so I'm having a heck of a good time."

You seem to have gone for a more heavier approach with "Seven Wishes", with a great deal more emphasis on the drums? "Yeah, there is a more heavier approach and more emphasis on the drums. 'Fitz' (Alan 'Fitz' Gerald) did a lot of keyboard work on this album too. He went in and really pulled some stuff off this time. Brad Gillis and I didn't do as much harmony guitar work on this one as much as we did on the last two, we were a little bit rushed at the end. The production was about the same as the last album but the material <u>is</u> heavier."

I understand you people don't like being termed a heavy metal band? "Not if it's malicious. If it's not malicious I don't mind. If you wanna define heavy metal as

being QUIET RIOT or MOTLEY CRUE then we're not a heavy metal band because a lot of our songs have more melody and more vocal structures, not that it's any worse or better. We call it "Stainless Steel" music, it hangs there - it doesn't rust. If we were heavy metal I'd be worried about the trend changing and having no opportunity to present my music anymore. If we stay with the format we're at now then we can still play heavy songs, but also other songs that get across to other crowds, then we can always continue to keep playing."

"We're a guitar orientated band, so we have a lot of guitar fans from the heavy side of our audience but we do have that REO crowd too."

I've noticed that you and Brad do a lot of interviews with specialist guitar magazines? "Well they picked up on Brad's and my playing styles I invented this eight finger technique of guitar playing and he does a lot of bar work and we do a lot of this harmony playing which is fun playing, so I guess they picked up on this. I think it's one of the frontline things of the band - the guitar playing, but of course I'm a guitar player so I'm bound to say that aren't I?!"

Coming from San Francisco are you aware of the massive underground scene, especially amongst the infamous Bay Area bangers? "Oh I'm very aware of it. I have lots of friends who are in heavy metal bands. I mean I know about EXODUS and all the others. A couple of guys from MOTLEY CRUE sang backing vocals on "Seven Wished". There's a really big community in the United States, or at least in California with all these bands working together. Glenn Hughes sang on our last album too did you know that?"

I noticed Brad appeared on the recent TAXXI album? "Yeah I think he went in and played a solo on one track but I don't know which one. I don't really know much about that to be honest with you. Brad just did that "Hear'n'Aid" thing which should be interesting to hear."

Have you heard that Japanese live bootleg album that's suddenly appeared? "I've heard about that, do you have it?" No, it's a bit too expensive for me!!! "I haven't heard it either but I saw somebody with a copy of that. We'd just got back from Japan and I saw the track listing and it had "Young Girl In Love" on it, our little pop tune from the first album y'know and the funny thing is we've never played that song live in our life!! I have yet to hear what they've got on there!!"

You broke Japan, so this European tour obviously means a great deal in terms of breaking the band here? "Oh, this tour means a lot. In the first place we'd never been to Europe before and I think FOREIGNER's management must've owed us a favour or something to put us on over here. We're real grateful to FOREIGNER for these shows. It's a real nice way to break into Europe, it's better than to come over here and do it on our own. The FOREIGNER tour has been very successful. The only problem with their audience is that FOREIGNER is now geared more towards a ballad orientated band which brings in so many people because "I Wanna Know What Love Is" was such a big hit."

That's really funny because when I told one of my seventeen-year-old, female colleagues at work that I might be going to see FOREIGNER she announced that they were one of her favourite bands on the strength of that pathetic waste of vinyl! She was still at primary school when FOREIGNER first hit home with their debut album!!

"Yeah, so these people look at us when we come on and go 'what the heck' 'cos we're up there cranking it out, it's really funny!"

What do you have up your sleeves for the rest of this summer? "We go back to the States to do another video or maybe two. Then we go and play a show, with FOREIGNER as well, called The Mountain Air Festival which is a big out-door show in California."

How do you think "Sister Christian " did for you reputation wise? "Oh it broke us wide open in the States, but it's along the same lines as what we were talking about with FOREIGNER. We're a rock band and get people coming to the shows expecting our set to be full of that stuff... same lines." They're obviously disappointed!

Have you got a major US tour lined-up? "Yeah, we've got about 170 dates coast to coast. We're gonna work real hard. We've been moving since the album was done." Who came up with the concept for the album cover? "Well it was Jack Blades' (bassist) initial idea. He was thinking "Seven Wishes"..... the idea for the song was that if you had seven wishes how would things turn out? Would you be greedy? gracious? would you turn out to be an asshole or a really good guy? Would you save the world's hunger (would you wanna be Bob Geldof? -ED) or would you want a million dollars? Y'know, it goes in so many different directions. We decided to make it the title of the album because we liked the song so much. So we came up with the idea of the plane. See the first video - "Sentimental Street" is based around the wish where you'd want to go back to your home town to go through again what you went through when you're first starting out as a band. So you see the plane crashing, we find a lamp and everybody gets a wish and one of the wishes is to go back down "Sentimental Street"."

But the cover itself reminds me very much of MOTORHEAD's "Bomber" album. "I've never seen that album cover." Well the only real difference is that you've got a B-25 Mitchell and they had a plane that looked like a combination of a Heinkel and a Flying Fortress! "I don't know much about MOTORHEAD. I remember we played one show about four years ago with them but I've never seen any of their albums."

Do you think the militaristic image of the "Seven Wishes" album will put anybody off buying it? "No, we never thought of it like that. We thought of it more as a fantasy type thing. It's not a statement of any military action or anything, it's just a way of going back in time and finding "The Lamp" and make the song/video concept run smoothly."

I sincerely hope it's not too long before NIGHT RANGER strike out at these shores again in their own right instead of having to play second fiddle to the FOREIGNER blandola. Let's face it, pomp-metal bands like NIGHT RANGER are in the same predicament as any hard-core band, i.e. Zero chart action. Unless your name is IRON MAIDEN, bands of this calibre have no chance of striking it big chart-wise in the UK. Instead you get bollocks like Prince, Madonna et al. But do we really want mass acceptance for our favourite bands? "If you were handed seven wishes. Would you turn your back for more. Would you hold on tight to what you have or would you try to change the score?"

© NIGHT RANGER "Seven Wishes".

LYDIAN®

SWEET SURRENDER

It's a sunny afternoon down in Shades Records and in walks our Editor - Bernard Doe. "There you go, that's right up your street" he leaves the single on the counter for me to look at. The single in question is LYDIAN's "Burn The Sky" (see MF11 for review). Bernard also tells me that LYDIAN is coming over to London in about a months time, sounds interesting to me. Anyway, the single sounds good so I take up the offer for the interview. Voila! it's the end of May and LYDIAN calls to say she's in London.

So I finally meet LYDIAN and we go for a bite to eat. Firstly, I would like to point out how nice it was to meet an American without an overblown ego; in fact LYDIAN came over as being quite shy. I firstly asked her how she became involved in this rock'n'roll circus? "My Mum and Dad virtually got me into rock'n'roll. I was playing straight piano for eight years, then I heard "Destroyer" by KISS. Since then the likes of AC/DC, SAMMY HAGAR, DEF LEPPARD and MOUNTAIN have influenced me a lot. As far as girl singers I think Grace Slick is the only one with any talent whatsoever and her attitude I really admire as well. Back to my history, my Dad got me a synthesiser and I started trying for bands that needed keyboard players. The first band I joined was one called MISCHIEF which soon fell apart. I then got into SABRE which was all males apart from me. I ended up being that bands general tidy up person. I was doing their cooking and cleaning as well as singing and playing keyboards for the band. Anyway, I soon left SABRE after they changed the songs on the night of a gig. We were doing a gig at a school and then at the encore the band played a number I didn't know and the drummer did the vocals.

"I auditioned for other bands in the Pheonix area; but basically girls are not thought of as being musicians in that part of the country. Eventually I met U.S. who had been looking for a girl vocalist. I did two gigs with U.S. and then unfortunately the old lead singer came back and rejoined the band. I gave up after that and decided to do the single. The guys in U.S. then decided to give me a hand. U.S. broke up about one month after the 45 due to the singer helping one of his friends to rip-off $10,000 worth of equipment."

What are your future plans? Well I plan to go into the studio again, the three songs I'm doing are "Isolation", "Shadows Of The Night" (both written by me) plus a cover of Peter Frampton's "I Wanna Go To The Sun", it should be really great we've totally revamped it. I will be using the same guys as on the 45: Glen Mura (guitar), Gary Ray (drums) with the addition of Aaron (bass) the second guitarist hasn't been decided yet."

At that point I left the delightful LYDIAN and wished her luck.

KELV HELLRAZER

LYDIAN
c/o PANTHER PRODUCTIONS
P.O. Box 205
Mogadore, Ohio 44260

Pic Glen Mura

METAL BLADE RECORDS

Following our SAVAGE GRACE article in MF 12, Brian Slagel,President of Metal Blade Records has contacted METAL FORCES to clarify certain statements made by guitarist Chris Logue in the interview:

"I am quite displeased at his misquotes of me and my attitudes. First off, bands on any independent label are not going to make a huge amount of money, but almost every band on our label has received quite a bit of money in royalties, including SAVAGE GRACE. Not to mention the amounts of promotion we put into the bands (ads in major mags, mailouts, etc... in the US).

"Next, our contracts are very fair and are in accordance with most major label agreements. We work with the bands, not against them.

"As far as his alleged quote of me, yes I could have a hundred bands, but we only work with a selected few. I started this label in order for unknown metal bands to get some exposure that they probably would never otherwise get. I could have sold out long ago, but I would rather help the bands and work with them.

"It's a real shame that Chris has to slag off other people and print quotes that are incorrect. By the way, we were never soley distributed by Greeworld, they are only one of our distributors as is Important and Jem, as Mr. Logue had said.

"Next time I think Chris should check the facts."

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